

# The Playground



MAY, 1926

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## How Recreation is Developing in the South

Jacksonville, Florida, Durham, North Carolina, Columbus,  
Georgia, Report Achievements

## The Children's Village

A Unique Development under the Smith Memorial Play-  
grounds in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Two Great Anniversaries in 1926

How to Celebrate the Sesqui-Centennial and the Three  
Hundredth Anniversary of the Purchase of Manhattan

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VOLUME XX. NO. 2

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# The Playground

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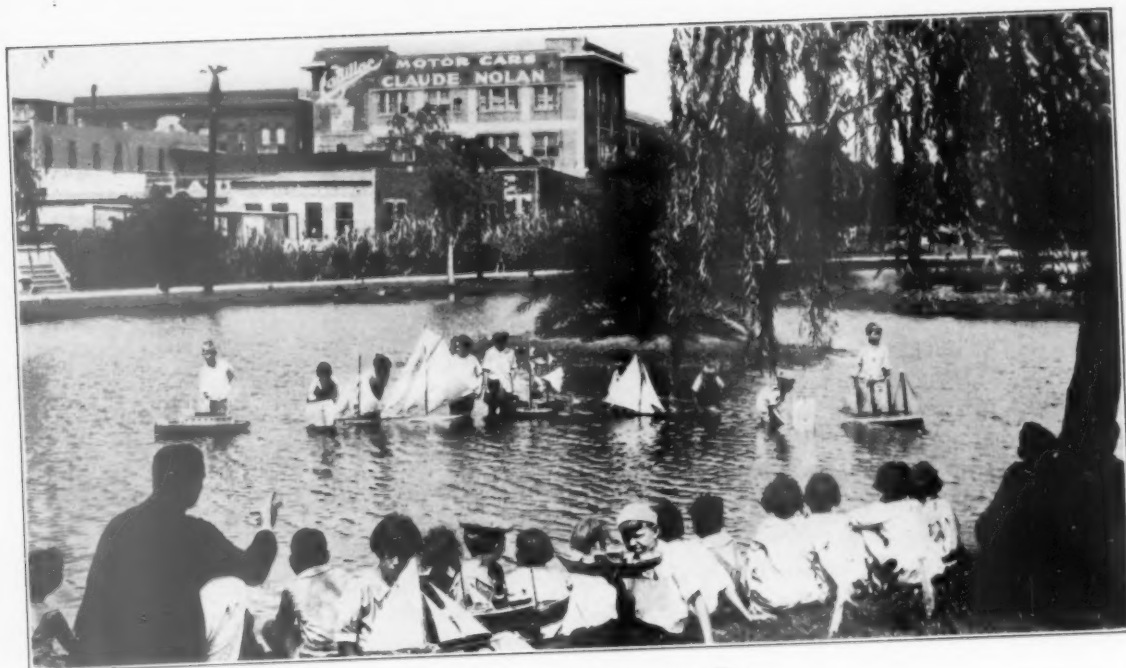
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# The Playground

VOL. XX, No. 2

MAY, 1926

## The World at Play

**Plymouth's New Town Hall.**—The memorial town hall dedicated in Plymouth on February 22d is of red brick and of Colonial architecture. From the flight of wide steps one enters a spacious lobby from which stairways lead to the lower floor. Beyond this entrance is a lobby with niches to be used for the display of battle flags and war relics. On the right is a large room which is to be the headquarters of Plymouth Post 40, American Legion. A second room will be devoted to the Spanish War Veterans and a smaller one to the G. A. R.

From an archway at the end of the lobby the visitor looks down on the main floor, where are seats on three sides, all elevated and set in concrete foundations. Overhead is a gallery, which also occupies three sides of the hall. It will be a simple matter to clear the lower floor of seats, as they can slide directly into a storage room. There is a seating capacity for 1,400 around the hall and seats for 800 additional can be placed on the main floor.

On the second story front is a hall suitable for gatherings of two or three hundred people. This hall extends across the front of the building, and has a stage at the rear, which can be closed by sliding panels. Behind the stage serving room, on a higher level, is the moving picture booth which will have two projectors.

**Roadside Good Manners.**—"Leave a clean record of your pleasure" is the slogan of the campaign for the furtherance of roadside good manners which the American Nature Association and the American Tree Association will conduct during 1926.

"There is no imaginable excuse for the leaving of picnic papers, cans, bottles, and remains of food on the sites chosen for outdoor lunches and suppers. We do not scatter our household refuse on our front lawns, nor do we empty our wastebaskets from the windows of our homes. Public property and property belonging to others must

be treated in the same way that we would treat our own. Experienced campers and outdoor lovers repack their refuse and dispose of it at home. If this is not possible, then bury it, or burn it in a suitable place and make sure that the fire is out before going on. Every true woodsman leaves his camp with the idea of being able to revisit the same spot with pleasure."

**New Haven's Knot Hole Gang.**—New Haven, Connecticut, is one of the latest cities to organize a Knot Hole Gang. New Haven Community Service in cooperation with the New Haven Baseball Exhibition Company has started such a club, and boys who meet the requirements will receive tickets admitting them to the New Haven Baseball Club's regular games. There are about 20 official agencies in New Haven dealing with boys, each of which may become an agency for the selection of members of the gang and the issuing of passes for membership applications.

**A Play Institute in Richmond.**—An interesting pamphlet issued by the Woman's Press tells in detail of the Play Institute held in Richmond, Virginia, under the auspices of a Committee representing the School of Social Work and Public Health, the Community Recreation Association, the Health Education Department of the Y. W. C. A., Boy Scouts and other community groups. The booklet contains not only a description of the method of organization of the institute and its program, but also directions for playing a number of games for various age groups. A number of party programs are also outlined and there is a very helpful bibliography.

A copy of the pamphlet may be secured from the Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, at 50c.

**A Physical Education Convention in Minneapolis.**—The Mid-West Society of Physical Education held its annual convention on

March 11-13 at Minneapolis. A program of visitation of interesting Physical Education activities in the city during the first day was followed by an informal dinner, a short period of social recreation and adjournment to the women's gymnasium of the University to see the annual demonstration of the indoor work of the Department of Physical Education.

On the second day of the convention there were general sessions in the morning and evening with sectional meetings in the afternoon.

The morning of the final day was devoted to demonstrations and classes in primitive gymnastics, the staging of pageants, gymnastic dancing for men, folk dancing, simple recreative group games, social games, the teaching of highly organized games, clog dancing and similar activities. Sight-seeing drives, the Northwestern Gymnastic Meet and the conference basketball game completed the program.

**A Training Course for Recreation Leaders.**—From March 15th to May 13th the Westchester County Recreation Commission held a training course for recreation leaders covering twenty-four evenings. The subject on which lectures and demonstrations were given included folk dancing and singing games, handcraft, drama and storytelling, games, stunts and special activities, theory and administration.

**Trinity Church, Knoxville, Conducts a Training School.**—Knoxville, Tennessee, is conducting under the auspices of the church a training school for leisure time leaders. Meetings are held each Wednesday night from February 24th to May 26th. At 6:15 a community supper is served at cost. From 7:00 until 7:40 there are study classes in personal work, boys' and men's choral singing, Sunday school lesson and teaching, storytelling and stories, plays and dramatics. Following this is an illustrated lecture with hand colored stereopticon pictures. At 8:30 comes the recreation and games period conducted by H. G. Rogers, Superintendent, Bureau of Recreation.

There are 100 people, 60 of whom are over twenty-one years of age, enrolled in the course.

**Prison Congress Affirms Value of Play.**—*"Be It Resolved, That we express our conviction that the value of constructive, supervised play and recreation needs to be more largely understood by those who are dealing with problems of delinquency, and that if in every community really*

*adequate facilities for the recreational needs of young people were provided, many of their wayward tendencies could be effectively averted and at the same time health, morality, joy and good citizenship be promoted, and we further believe that recreational activities, properly conducted, may be made a powerful instrument for the restoration to normal living of delinquents who may be upon probation or in the custody of correctional institutions."*—*From American Prison Congress Annual Meeting, November, 1925.*

**Wyoming Valley Reviews Its Accomplishments.**—The Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, has issued its annual report, telling among other activities of the forty-seven playgrounds which the children of twenty-six boroughs as well as the children of Wyoming Valley have been enjoying. With a total attendance of 797,714 the cost per unit of attendance is estimated at \$.034; the cost per capita of population at \$.10. For this small sum a program of special activities, games and sports has been conducted on forty-seven playgrounds.

The playgrounds, however, are only part of the program. The Store Employees' Association, now including 51 stores and industries, maintained in 1925 forty-two bowling teams for girls, sixty-four for men, thirty twilight baseball teams and activities such as social recreation, dances, basketball, swimming and camping for girls. The organization is self-sustaining and completed the year with a bank balance of about a thousand dollars.

Community dramatics have been promoted and help given local groups in the selecting and producing of plays. The local Drama League has a membership of 140 who pay dues at \$1.50 a year.

The Community Boys' Band has been built up to 107 pieces, the members paying a fee of \$.50 a month. The Boys' Band contest of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the first of its kind to be held, brought eight bands together before an audience of four thousand people.

Winter sports proved popular in 1925, as did the activities of the Soccer League, the tennis program and the many other features promoted by the Association.

**Recreation for Tourists in Jacksonville.**—A Tourist Club has been established under the



SHANTY ROW, BOYS PLAYGROUND—SOLDIERS' ORPHAN HOME, NORMAL, ILL.

auspices of the Playground Department of Jacksonville, Florida, where will be conducted a program of special activities. In addition there will be tables for checkers, chess, cards, domino sets, magazines, newspapers and the latest fiction. Two recreation workers will have charge of the daily sessions from 10:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.

**Shanty Row.**—At the Illinois Soldiers' Orphan Home at Normal, Illinois, there is a playground with a novel feature. What boy has not at some time longed for a shanty of which he will be sole architect and builder! Shanty Row on the playground of the Home is the boys' dream come true. Here each boy works out his own ideas. It may be a structure of some architectural merit; in most cases, however, it is not. In any event it is his own!

#### Unexpected Recreation Leadership Values.

—On February 10, 1926, five trains were snow-bound on the Long Island Railroad, not so many miles from New York City. On the first of these trains the passengers spent the night in a baggage car with three coffins, a heap of mail sacks and several sides of beef. The thermometer was down to 10° outside and there was little heat in the car. The food supply consisted of a few sandwiches.

Gradually the group became acquainted. Old fashioned parlor games were proposed. Guessing games and memory feats were started. A member of the train group produced a harmonica. His first number was received with constraint. There

was a feeling that it was rather lively and frivolous. The impression made by the immediate presence of three coffins could not be wholly put out of mind. The first numbers were solos. Then another man produced, shamefacedly, an instrument which is known as the gazook. It is best on a sad theme. It could skirl like a bagpipe rendering a Celtic lament and suddenly descend to a slow and stately movement in the bass.

Then the gazook and harmonica, without rehearsal, went into action simultaneously. The effect made all hearers forget their hardship and all the unpleasantness of their uncanny environment.

With diversion of this kind to occupy the abandoned party, the night was soon over.

**Activities in Montgomery.**—May 15th will be Rally day for the playgrounds of Montgomery, Alabama, and at that time Mayor Gunter will present a 40-foot flag pole and a flag to the playground making the largest number of points in a contest based on the following: A well prepared and well carried out daily and monthly program; general increase in attendance and improvement secured through the children, such as cooperation with the parents, care of apparatus, cleanliness of the grounds and a general attitude of loyalty and helpfulness. The contest is developing a fine spirit of self government in what has been one of the most troublesome districts. The boys have banded together under their gang leader and where breaking of windows and general destructiveness was formerly a pastime the slightest offense is now frowned upon by the gang.



**Houston's Annual Report.**—The Houston Recreation and Community Service Association has issued an exceedingly unique annual report which tells the story of the year's work in a very graphic way. The report is long and narrow in form measuring  $9\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The cover is made up of a number of small pictures showing activities of various types. There are four pages devoted to listing the members of the Board and the Executive Staff of the Recreation Department, to the letter of transmittal by the President and a brief history of the work in Houston. Then follows a graph showing the organization of the Association. The rest of the story is found on a large sheet which is folded into the report. On one side appears by months and years the program of activities listed under different departments such as Administration, Playground Division, Athletic Division, Drama Division, Music Division and Neighborhood Organization. Not only are activities shown but the number of participants in each. On the other side of the sheet is a detailed list of facilities also grouped under division headings. The report also contains a chart showing the organization of the Recreation and Community Service Department, their association and the fundamentals as outlined by the P. R. A. A.

Here is a complete picture of Houston's recreation life—how, where and under what conditions the city plays. Miss Corinne Fonde and her associates are to be congratulated on having produced "something new under the sun" in the shape of an annual report!

**Activities at Montreal.**—During 1925 recreation was promoted by the Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Association in eleven play centers, according to the Association's recent report. Among the activities of the program were community singing, street showers, massed folk dancing, flower distribution, picnics, baseball, volleyball, basketball, soccer, cricket, swimming, handicraft and play festivals.

**Storytelling at Private Homes.**—A number of citizens of Elmira, New York, recently opened their homes for a storytelling hour for children, held under the auspices of Elmira Community Service.

**A Pageant in Monroe, Michigan.**—Under the auspices of Monroe Community Service and Recreation Association, Monroe, Michigan, will have a historical pageant on the evenings of June

twenty-third and twenty-fourth. A homecoming celebration will be observed in connection with the program. With the rich store of early history attached to Monroe, the pageant bids fair to be one of the most artistic and beautiful ever seen in this section.

**Age Limit at Social Center Dances.**—Only boys and girls who have reached their seventeenth birthday will be admitted to the dances at the recreation centers conducted by the Park Board of Springfield, Massachusetts. This ruling has been made in accordance with the provisions of a new law relating to the age of those admitted to public dances. While there is room for doubt whether technically the law applies to dances in recreation centers, it has been decided by officials that the spirit of the law should be followed.

**Westchester County Makes Its Report.**—When the Westchester County Recreation Commission began its work two years ago there were sixteen playgrounds in eight communities of the county; now there are fifty playgrounds in twenty-one localities. Two years ago Westchester County had no conception of having its own music festival. Today choral groups all over the county are preparing for their second great music festival to be held in May with thousands participating.

Other county events have included county-wide ice carnivals, play days and a drama tournament. A county-wide athletic federation has been organized, a successful camp has been held for two seasons and a County Trails Club has an enthusiastic membership of 205 people.

These are a few of the accomplishments recorded in the 1925 report—accomplishments made possible, the report points out, by the hearty cooperation of local and county groups.

**Scranton Increases Its Budget.**—The 1926 budget of \$47,000 for the Bureau of Recreation of Scranton has been approved. This is an increase of approximately 20 per cent over last year.

**Planning Ahead.**—The Bureau of Recreation of Pittsburgh has made a careful study of all the property owned by the City and available for recreation purposes, whether under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Recreation, Bureau of Parks, Bureau of Water, Bureau of Police, Board of Education or other agencies.

An interesting fact brought out by the study is

that of 142 acres at 31 locations under the Bureau of Recreation and the 1451 acres at 16 locations under the Bureau of Parks, a large part is as yet undeveloped and not available for playground and recreation purposes. The Bureau recommends that not less than 70 per cent of the amount provided for recreation development in the contemplated bond issue be designated in the bond issue "for the purpose of improvement of property now owned by the City," and that no more than 30 per cent of the total funds provided be used for the acquisition of new sites.

It is hoped that the City will adopt the policy of providing large areas at some distance from the City for recreation purposes and, in the event that this policy is adopted, it is recommended that not less than 10 per cent of the total amount of funds provided for recreation be devoted to this purpose.

Five per cent of the total amount of the bond issue for public improvements is considered a fair proportion to be designated for the equipment and improvement of recreation facilities and it is recommended that this proportion be so designated. Since the contemplated bond issue is in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000 the adoption of the recommendation of the Bureau of Recreation would provide approximately \$1,000,000 for recreation improvements.

**Reports from Louisville.**—The reports of the Board of Park Commissioners of Louisville, Kentucky, and of the supervisor of recreation under the Board show a wide range of facilities including 53 tennis courts, 27 baseball diamonds, 11 football fields, an 18-hole golf course on which over 48,000 people played last year, three swimming pools, a soccer football field, two hockey fields, six horseshoe courts and 22 playgrounds, 14 of which are on property owned by the city. The Board of Park Commissioners also provides over nine miles of bridle paths.

**Badge Tests Prove Successful in Springfield.**—Miss Ann Dorothy Harmacek, Director of Recreation, Y. W. C. A., Springfield, Ohio, writes:

"The Athletic Badge Tests for girls arranged by the Playground and Recreation Association were used with evident success among the junior members of the health department of the Springfield, Ohio, Young Women's Christian Association. The first test was given to the girls in the gymnasium classes and was received with great enthusiasm. At a meeting of the participants on

February 23, the badges and certificates were awarded to those who qualified."

**Motion Pictures in Teaching.**—Announcement has been made that the Eastman Kodak Company, a member of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., proposes to make a number of teaching films closely correlated with selected courses and with a definite educational plan. The films will be prepared with the advice and assistance of competent educators and will be put into a limited number of representative schools in a number of cities for trial in their classrooms. The plan will be tried out for an experimental period of about two years and any future developments will be determined by the success of the experiment.

**Negro Spirituals.**—Under the auspices of the Westchester County Recreation Commission, the Scarsdale, New York, unit of the Westchester County Spiritual Chorus assisted by members of units in nearby communities in the county gave a concert of negro spirituals at the Scarsdale High School. The numbers presented were as follows:

Were You There?

Heben

I Stood on de Ribber ob Jordan

I Know de Lord's Laid His Hands on Me

Oh Wasn't Dat a Wide Ribber

Sunday Mornin' Band

Lord I Want to Be a Christian

Water Boy

Oh, Rock Me, Julie

Scandalize My Name

Swing Low

Wonderful Counsellor

Deep River

Go Down Moses

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Been A' Listenin'

Couldn't Hear Nobody Prayin'

**A New Bandstand at Salem.**—As one feature of the three hundredth anniversary of its settlement, Salem, Massachusetts, proposes to erect a new bandstand in its historic common. It will be octagonal in shape, of masonry construction with columns connected by graceful arches. Surmounting it will be a light dome crowned with one of the Salem pineapples in stone, indicative, according to tradition, of true hospitality. Guarding the steps to the main platform will be a rail-





COMMUNITY MUSIC WAGON  
Salem, Mass.

ing of light wrought iron leading up to each opening. The interior of the bandstand, which will seat about forty musicians, will be illuminated by a series of specially recessed lights controlled by a room in the basement.

**The Community Music Wagon.**—There are few places or occasions where music does not play an important part. The Park Department of Salem, Massachusetts, according to Oliver G. Pratt, Superintendent of Parks, has devised an interesting scheme for making music available in any section of the city. A special body has been built on a Ford chassis and a piano installed, which is taken from playground to playground. The dancing supervisor on her arrival at a playground conducts a playground sing and then starts the children off on singing games followed by special dancing instruction. The dancing department has been much more efficient and has served a wider field since the advent of the music. Many of the playgrounds hold cake and candy sales and secure the piano for the evening's entertainment by filing application at the office. Any community group may secure the use of this equipment

by making application at the office and paying for the driver.

**California Fosters the Arts.**—The 1925-26 year book of the California Eisteddfod Association is a most interesting report of the progress and program of this rapidly growing movement, which is fostering "art, happiness and citizenship." Each year finds the interest growing in these contests in the varied forms of art and more than twice as many individuals and groups will take part in the 1926 contest as were entered in 1925.

In the art department there will be competitions in all the fine arts and pictorial photography. The Department of Dancing will consist of group, solo and duet dancing divisions. Much interest centers around the Drama Department with its one-act play division and Junior Drama Department. The Special Arts Department will have sections in interpretive reading and public speaking. The Department of Music has been subdivided into a number of divisions—piano, voice, adult choral, harmony, orchestra and instrumental, band and violin.

**Drama as a Civic Asset.**—Drama recently received recognition as a civic asset when the Arthur Noble medal, to be presented each year as an award to the citizen of Pasadena making the most outstanding contribution to public welfare, was bestowed upon Gilmor Brown, Director of Pasadena Playhouse. It is significant that this first award of the Noble medal has been made not for a material but a spiritual contribution. "By this action," said a speaker at the program held in Mr. Brown's honor, "Pasadena calls the attention of the world to the fact that here there is an appreciation of the value of culture as a community asset."

The cornerstone of the Pasadena Playhouse was laid two years ago. Costing \$400,000, it is a sample of the most complete and beautiful architectural planning for little theatres to be seen anywhere in the country.

**Once a Reservoir, Now an Open Air Theatre.**—The March issue of *The American City* tells of the transformation of an abandoned circular reservoir in Jacksonville, Illinois, into an open air Greek theatre, seating five thousand people. Professors from the Chicago Art Institute designed this unique structure and superintended its construction. The stage is on three levels to present instantaneous changes of scene without curtains. The theatre, which is owned by the city, is said to have remarkably fine acoustic properties.

**A Musical Survey.**—A recent survey made by Leo Buettner in sixteen public schools of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, of the musical interests of the students brought out some interesting facts.

Two thousand one hundred and ninety-five boys and 2,005 girls expressed their preferences along the line of musical instruments. Of every nine pupils seven expressed a desire to learn to play. Thirty-two kinds of instruments were listed by these youthful enthusiasts. The harmonica was first in the list and a preference for this instrument was shown by 1,008 boys and 1,024 girls. This large number is accounted for by the present popularity of the harmonica in Johnstown and the promotion of harmonica bands. Next came the piano and the violin; 275 preferred the saxophone and 140 the banjo. After that came cornets, guitars, bass drums, clarinets and a great variety of instruments.

**On Tour.**—The Eastwood Playground Puppet Players of Houston, Texas, recently went "on tour" for the County Library Association. The show was given in the back of the grocery store with the overflow seated on boxes of soap and canned goods. Chocolate and cookies were served in honor of the players.

**Fellowships of Interest to Workers with Children.**—The Department of Education of Smith College offers six fellowships of \$700 each and three scholarships covering tuition for college graduates who wish to prepare themselves for specialized work in education. Two of the fellowships will permit graduate students to study, at the Smith College Cooperative Nursery School, the pre-school child and the activities of play schools for children. Two fellowships are offered in connection with the Smith College Experimental school for Exceptional Children. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Seth Wakeman, of the Department of Education, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

**An Effective Appeal.**—The Flatbush Boys' Club of Brooklyn, of which Mrs. Ida B. Wambold is superintendent, has issued an unusually attractive booklet entitled "A Successful Experiment in Youth Guidance."

After a brief statement of the program and of the inadequacy of the present facilities to meet the rapidly growing program, the report is devoted to a presentation of the plans for the proposed new building reproduced in blueprint form. On each floor plan is a statement of the facilities, followed by the endowment cost for each facility. Underneath this, blocked in, appears the suggestive form:

CONTRIBUTION FOR .....

GIVEN BY

.....  
.....

IN MEMORY OF

.....  
.....  
.....

This plan is followed for each of the three floors.

The final page shows pictorially some of the activities mentioned in the report, which is a most effective appeal for funds for the building.

**Marionette Theatre.**—Saturday morning Marionette performances have been held through

the spring at Guild Hall, New York City. Miss Lillian Owens is directing the effort in the hope of establishing a permanent home for a marionette theatre, giving to the children of this country the traditional delight in puppet playing which European children have.

**A Poetic Tournament for May Day.**—A charming and unusual addition to the usual May Day festivities is that of Second Church in Boston, which gives a golden rose to the New England poet who most felicitously interprets the genius of May Day. Three poets are chosen to read their verses and receive the crown of laurel. To one is given the golden rose to possess for one year. The rite is a revival of a French custom dating back to 1324.

**The Kit.**—The popular magazine for leaders of "church-centered recreation." Published by Lynn Rohrbough, 510 Wellington Avenue, Chicago. \$.25. The spring issue of *The Kit* is full of suggestions for social recreation in the spring and for outdoor nature activities. While the kit is designed particularly for those conducting church recreation, it will be helpful in all types of social recreation.

**Recreation.**—An exceedingly helpful little pamphlet issued by State Executive Board, California Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, contains suggestions for city and rural playground activities for the school yard, home playgrounds, lists of books and other practical suggestions.

**A New Adventure in Detroit.**—The Department of Recreation at Detroit has inaugurated a monthly bulletin "by the staff, to the staff and for the staff." The first issue published in March contains an editorial by Commissioner Brewer on the why and how of recreation work in Detroit, information regarding the events scheduled for March and accounts of recent staff meetings and the action taken. The bulletin also gives information regarding athletic leagues, checker tournaments, the harmonica orchestra and the many other activities promoted by the Department. There is, too, a personal column, where the "laughs" are to be found.

The bulletin, which is made up of mimeographed sheets with the reading matter arranged in two columns, has an attractive blue cover with an appropriate design.

**The Health Hero Series.**—The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York City is issuing a series of publications on health heroes. The first two to appear tell of the lives and work of Louis Pasteur and Edward Livingston Trudeau. They have been especially prepared by the School of Health Bureau for Junior and Senior High School use, and the Bureau will be glad to furnish superintendents and high school principals with a sufficient quantity to place five copies in the hands of teachers interested in health teaching.

**A New Book on Model Airplanes.**—This new book for miniature aircraft flyers contains a wealth of information for boys and girls who wish to make flying machines and to participate by mail, radio, telegraph or personal presence in the contests conducted in Chicago. The book tells how to conduct contests and how to make nine different proved flying machines, powered with rubber strands. The compilation is the result of four years' active experience on the part of Terence Vincent, the author, formerly playground leader in Kirkwood, Missouri, and later a park director in the South Park district of Chicago. It is well illustrated with descriptive diagrams and written in a clear and interesting style. Copies of the book may be secured from Miniature Airplane Flyers, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, at 50c each or \$5.00 a dozen.

**A New Magazine in the Field of Children's Work.**—In January a new magazine entitled "Revue Internationale de L'Enfant," published in Geneva, made its bow to the public. The chief aim of this new publication will be to establish liaison between specialists in child welfare in different countries. It will publish original articles and news in five languages—French, English, German, Italian and Spanish. The three principal questions to be studied in the revue will be those examined by the first General Congress on Child Welfare: (1) Hygiene and Medicine; (2) Social Welfare and Administration; (3) Education and Propaganda.

**Sixteen Years Old.**—On February 19th to 26th the West Chicago Park Commissioners held a series of mid-winter exhibitions and exercises commemorating the sixteenth anniversary of the opening of Stanford Park. A demonstration of women's and men's gymnastic activities, the presentation of a pantomime and a concert were among the special events held.

**A Sport for Sport's Sake Carnival.**—March 30th was the date scheduled for the sports carnival of Oakland, according to an attractive report recently issued by the Industrial Athletic Association of Greater Oakland. This carnival, held in the arena of the municipal auditorium, was the sixth event of the kind to be held. There was the usual parade with floats provided by the various firms belonging to the Association and a demonstration of athletics and games when the entire floor was covered with participants in volleyball, baseball, relay races, bowling and basketball. The evening closed with dancing.

Perpetual banners and trophies were awarded as follows:

1. Firm making the best appearance in the Feature Parade, which will be judged on the following:

Originality .....	40%
Appearance .....	40%
Marching .....	20%

Total ..... 100%

2. Firm having the greatest percentage of its employees participating in activities
3. Shuttle Relay Race for Women
4. Relay Race for Men

Much interest has centered about the Association's basketball tournament for women in which the new point system received its initial trial. The system was worked out on the following basis:

1. Sportsmanship
 

a. Team spirit	} 40 pts.
b. Attitude toward officials	
c. Cooperation with captain	
2. Promptness 20 pts.
3. Attendance 20 pts.
4. Minimum personal fouls 20 pts.

Total 100 pts.

**Dedication of the Play Makers' Theatre Building.**—Seven years ago last November the Carolina Playmakers presented their initial group of folk plays on a makeshift stage, which they constructed in the auditorium of the Chapel Hill School. On November 23, 1925, the Play Makers' Theatre Building at Chapen Hill, North Carolina, an up-to-date fully equipped State Theatre, was dedicated. According to Professor Frederick H. Koch, Founder and Director of the Carolina Playmakers, this State theatre is the first in America to be devoted to the making of its own native drama.

Since 1918 the Playmakers have produced forty-two of their Carolina plays representing thirty different authors. Three volumes of the plays have been published. They are recognized as marking the beginnings of an authentic American folk drama.

**Checkers in Detroit.**—The checker furor has struck Detroit. More than five thousand men, women and children have entered the lists for the city-wide tournament being conducted under the auspices of the Recreation Department.

The tournament is being held in three divisions—juvenile for boys and girls thirteen years and under; junior for boys and girls fourteen to eighteen, and senior for all individuals over nineteen years of age. The preliminaries were held at the Recreation Centers during the week of March 7th. District tournaments were held the following week in twelve districts—six on the West Side—six on the East. The winners of the district tournaments competed during the week of March 21st. During the first week in April the City Championship was determined at a tournament between the East and West Side winners. Silver medals were awarded district and East and West Side winners. The winners of the city championship were awarded gold medals.

Starting on February 22nd a checker problem and its solution was broadcast each evening by Station WWJ.

**Making Your Hobbies Count.**—*Harness Your Hobbies to Orlando's Happiness* is the heading of a card sent out by the department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of Orlando, Florida. On this card residents of the city are asked to check their hobbies, which are listed under the headings: athletics, music, dramatics, etc. A fifth column is headed, "Will you volunteer to be a leader?" And here are listed games, parties, handcraft, first aid, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, story telling, the directing of plays and music and other activities in which volunteers can help. At the bottom of the card appears the statement, *Recreation Means Increased Happiness in Life.*

**State and National School Band Contests.**—In 1925 the Committee on Instrumental Affairs of the Music Supervisors' National Conference conducted ten state school band contests and two covering a wide territory. In 1926 the Com-



mittee expects to hold its first National Contest preceded by State Contests during April and the early part of May. The National Contest will be held between May 15th and June 10th, in a centrally located city.

The object of all these contests is the extension and improvement of band and instrumental music generally in the schools of the country. It is believed that the interest aroused by the contests with a wider participation in each annual repetition will result in the near future in winning more adequate recognition of the educational improvement of bands, and that this in turn will enable the bands more fully to serve their schools and their communities.

A pamphlet entitled State and National School Band Contest, 1926, has been issued by the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music, 45 West 45th Street, New York, which is cooperating with the Committee and whose Secretary, Mr. C. M. Tremaine is serving as Secretary of the Committee.

**Juvenile Delinquency on the Decline in St. Paul.**—The statement that juvenile delinquency is decreasing in St. Paul is based, says Mr. E. W. Johnson, Superintendent of the Playgrounds, on the report of the Juvenile Court. This report shows, in 1925, 585 cases were brought before the court; in 1924, 725. The number on probation coming before the municipal court in 1925 was 509; in 1924, 597.

In a statement given by the Juvenile Court after checking over the districts of the city it was reported that where the playground areas were operating under a very definite program the cases of delinquents had decreased materially and that a larger number of cases came from areas too far away for the playgrounds to serve.

**Boston's Music Festival.**—On February 22d, Boston held its Third International Music Festival under the auspices of Boston Community Service and the Women's Municipal League in cooperation with the Cosmopolitan Club, National Civic Federation and Society of Colonial Dames. The foreign-born groups who participated included the Finnish, Portuguese, Polish, German, Lithuanian, Russian and Swedish nationalities. Each chorus sang two selections, uniting in "Turn Back O Man" by Gustav Holtz. The Swedish Folk Dance Club of Boston presented members of their group in a minuet while the offering of

the Russian group included a musical folk scene, selections by Balalaikas String Orchestra and a Russian Caucasian Dance. A George Washington Tableau was a part of the program. Community singing was conducted by Augustus D. Zanzig.

**Paddle Tennis.**—The American Paddle Tennis Association is sponsoring the game of paddle tennis, an adaptation of tennis which has the advantage of accommodating larger numbers in limited space, is adaptable to all ages, provides an all-year program, is portable and can be set up anywhere. Its cost and upkeep are low.

Four full-sized paddle tennis courts may be laid out on one regulation tennis court, with two feet of space between each and an additional 1½ feet on each side. Each court may be used for a single or a doubles game. By the playing of doubles or four to each court sixteen may play at one time on the space usually required for four in tennis. If each group plays fifteen minutes or short sets, it is possible to accommodate sixty-four players on four courts in one hour's play program.

Equipment may be secured at reasonable rates from the American Paddle Tennis Association, 800 Church Avenue, Brooklyn.

## "The Uprising Generation"

"The Uprising Generation," a current Grantland Rice Sportlight release of the Pathe Exchange, Inc., is one of the best of the series.

Scenes are filmed from the swimming, track, golf, baseball and football activities of children in schools. While maintaining the high standard of the series with respect to thrills and action, the health and character-building values of amateur sport are clearly, if subtly, suggested in the picture.

The pictures are ably supported by clever titles of which the following are typical: "Before sobbing over the downfall of modern youth, take another look or two—"; "The uprising generation is in a hurry; but why not, where the main goal is health?" "Physical direction today is scientific work"; "Football for the kids was once just a corner lot rough-and-tumble"; "Spirit and sportsmanship in the making"; "If modern youth is skidding, it is not on the field of play"; "These samples and a million or more others are on their way towards making a healthy, rugged race. It's not so bad ahead!"



# What Recreation Has Done for Jacksonville

By

MILTON E. BACON

*Chairman Playground and Recreation Board, Jacksonville, Florida*

If your nose is close  
To the grindstone rough,  
And you hold it down  
There long enough,  
In time you'll say  
There's no such thing  
As brooks that babble  
And birds that sing;  
These three will all  
Your world compose—  
Just YOU, the STONE and  
Your darned old NOSE.

The foregoing carries with it something besides mere poetical rhythm. It was not long after I became interested in the great playground movement in America that there was thrust upon my consciousness the fact that the usual run of people were becoming what might be termed "bottled-up nonentities." The reason seemed to be a lack of avenues of expression in terms of play. Simple recreation.

It was not long before I became convinced that two of the greatest words in the English dictionary are those two words, "work" and "play." They are not incongruous; they are inseparable from success. The trouble as we have observed it seems to be occasioned by a suppression of emotions which represent the emotions inherently our birth-right—those emotions which cause us to want to play. It makes no difference how old a person becomes in years—he may have snow on his head but there always lingers summer in his heart.

A good many years ago while traveling through the peninsular of Florida I had as a companion a man some seventy years of age. I shall always remember a remark that he made in connection with his expressed idea of providing for his family in the event of his death. As nearly as I remember this represents a true transcript of what he said, "I am vitally interested in leaving the future of my family safeguarded through an estate that will

carry on when I am no longer here, but above that I am deeply, intensely and vitally interested in leaving behind a *Legacy of Good Government*." Many, many times since then his remark has come home to me in one sense or the other and I have come to believe that where you deal in educational measures that tend to absorb in the right way people's leisure time you are building citizenship—yes, but mainly you are leaving behind a *Legacy of Good Government*.

As I look back over the past few years and visualize the change that has come into the minds of those who carry on the physical part of our city government, it is with some pride that we, as a Board, feel what degree of mental readjustment



FROM A PET SHOW IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.



SPRINKLER—JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

has taken place through the demonstrated practicality of playground work. There is still a great deal to do, but there will always be a great deal to do.

The attitude of mere tolerance that existed on the part of the city fathers toward this work in the beginning has practically disappeared. Four years ago the budget committee of the city council struck out from its budgetary items the entire appropriation that had been asked for playground work. The pressure of civic organizations and a few persons who knew something of the nature of this movement induced the council to replace the amount asked for in the budget for playground purposes, but it was only under the greatest pressure and the most carefully planned strategy that we succeeded in doing it. That was four years ago.

Last week we found we needed \$6,000 additional to complete our year's work. Without the need of a single member of the Board going before the City Commission or City Council, a request for this in writing by the Chairman was unanimously endorsed by the Commission, the Budget Committee of the Council and the Council itself.

I draw this comparison to show you the change of heart in the political fathers of our city in four years' time.

The greatest good that has been accomplished has been the passage of a law promoted by the Playground Board, with the wonderful service and assistance of J. B. Williams of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, who untiringly worked for the cause. Going before the State Legislature at a time when it was practically torn to pieces he devoted his entire time and attention to the one thought of seeing that this legislation be created into a law and at the eleventh hour the bill passed both Houses, the Governor signed it and it became a law on the statute-book of the State of Florida. A part of that law provided that the citizens of Jacksonville vote at the polls a ratification.

We immediately commenced to prepare propaganda and as it neared the time when that election was to be called, we brought into play the cooperation of agencies and individuals to such an extent that when it finally went before the people for vote it was carried more than 4 to 1.

Now bear with me in this point, that all of this propaganda, all of this labor and all of this work and effort had its favorable reaction to the playground work in general. Bank presidents, lawyers, judges, merchants, in fact every profession and business in the city was represented by personal activity in assisting the measure. The banks of our city ran advertisements advocating passage of this measure. People who were in a sense inanimate to the question at hand became interested. We found new friends being made on every side and when the final result went up in a blaze of victory, it left us in the position of not only having accomplished the thing we set out to do, but through the instrumentality of the publicity given



JOHN CURTIS WITH MAYFLOWER—JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

the measure itself, we had unconsciously educated large numbers of people to the idea of play and recreation.

The most startling example of that was contained in an editorial written without any pressure being brought to bear (because our battle was over) appearing in a recent issue of the paper here in Jacksonville. It showed the study and thought on the part of that editorial writer toward the playground proposition.

Today the Playground and Recreation work in Jacksonville occupies a permanent place in the minds and hearts of the people. It has been the instrument that has brought about a better understanding in sectional communities and in the city in general. Demonstrations have been made that prove to men the need for self expression through play. Mothers' Clubs, Improvement Associations, real estate operators, in fact every conceivable form of individual and company has made contact with the underlying principles of what we call "play work."

They see a better vision ahead. They realize that investing the leisure time of youth in healthful and supervised play expression is a thing that tends to build citizenship—citizenship of a character that is of a more enduring and lasting quality than will ever be found by the rules of text books. They are beginning to realize that the principles of fair play instilled into the minds of children of the city will go far toward crystalizing that same principle in future years through those same minds that will then be ruling the destinies of our city. They are beginning to understand that the natural reaction of a human being to beauty in nature is a thing that should be fostered—they are beginning to know that where there is evolved in a boy's mind an understanding and the appreciation of the beauty of the sunrise, that that boy will never see the sun set through prison bars. They are beginning to see and understand that dealing in future citizenship is the matter of reckoning future values on moral merchandise.

"Let the girls go camping. Let them go to the mountains and stretch their bodies and minds. Let them have a glimpse of what it means to get close to the earth and know the mother feel of it. Let them get the smell of the forest in their nostrils. There is nothing sweeter, nothing cleaner, nothing that will store up finer memories than the smell of moss crushed under foot, the whiff of pine as it brushes the cheeks, the perfume of young hemlock warming in the sun, the bitter-clean smell of ferns knee-deep beside the trail, the woodsmoke of the evening fires curling towards the stars as the happily tired children roll themselves in their blankets to sleep on the bed of pine needles Mother Nature has been spreading for just this occasion these last hundred years. Don't you know that Education is the flowering of memories? The choicest of them are to be found in the woods with friends and youth. The summer

in a good camp will repay its cost a thousand times by its priceless joy. Let the girl go to camp."  
—ANGELO PATRI.

## Lynchburg Makes Recreation Strides

The report of the Department of Recreation of Lynchburg, Va., shows a great interest in recreation among the people of that city. The attendance at the various grounds and buildings for November alone was 11,855.

The Guggenheimer Milliken House had an attendance of 1,417 for the month. The building was open every afternoon for games, reading and storytelling and in the evening various organizations used it. The Baptist Church gave a Hallowe'en Party, a newly-organized athletic club held three meetings and a social club of forty members was organized, which gave two parties for the people of that community. The Miller Park House was also open on days of inclement weather. Special story and game programs were given once a week in each building and in each a Thanksgiving party was held. Lynchburg also has a new Negro community center situated at Mt. Carmel Church, which was open five days a week.

A carnival given under the auspices of the Recreation Department and three churches from the Miller Park community drew a large crowd. The playground orchestra furnished music for this occasion. The small admission fee charged was used to help pay for the community piano at Miller Park.

In the thirteen football games played in the Midget League during November, 364 boys participated. One hundred and sixty-eight boys took part in the six games scheduled in the boys' league in November. There was also a football league among the colored boys and a basketball league has recently been organized. A silver loving cup was donated by a Negro playground director for the champions of the league.

Other activities such as children's parties, the organization of Girl Scout troops, open house evenings, and cooperation with other organizations found a place in the November program.

Christmas was celebrated with programs about the community Christmas tree on Christmas Eve, Christmas Night and New Year's Eve.

# What Recreation Has Done for Durham

By

MRS. FIELDING LEWIS WALKER, JR.

*Durham, North Carolina*

Durham has a population of 38,500. Ten thousand of these people are employed in our manufacturing plants. Our colored population is thirty-three and one-third per cent.

There are ninety-three industrial and manufacturing establishments with an annual output of products amounting to \$90,000,000. Durham is proud of the fact that it is an educational as well as industrial center and our old reliables, "Duke's Mixture, Chesterfield Cigarettes, and Bull Durham," now have many competitors in various lines of business keeping pace with them in making Durham renowned.

Within a radius of twenty-five miles of Durham there are six educational institutions of higher learning with a total enrollment in excess of six thousand. Of these institutions the one with the richest endowment and the brightest future is within the confines of the city. Duke University, with its rich endowment and splendid traditions, will doubtless in the near future come to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of Southern institutions.

Ministering to the needs of the youth of the city we find a splendid system of public schools,—nine in number. Of these schools the high school, recently built, is an unusual institution in its grounds and equipment. Durham has for many years maintained an excellent reputation as an educational center. It is advertised on the bill boards as "The Friendly City, A Center of Industry and Education." This perhaps describes as accurately as it can be put the general atmosphere of the city.

I trust you will pardon the personal side of this story. It is intended only that you may clearly see the situation which brought about the realization of the need of a recreation program for the city which should be both industrial and educational.

Our recreation work is still in its infancy, but we are forging ahead with the strongest cooperation from our citizens.

For many years some felt that the play instinct of children (and grown-ups, too, for that matter) was dormant during the fall, winter, and spring months and only aroused during the hot months

of June, July, and August. This year the Recreation Commission realized the need and brought about a year-round system with a program which would reach all ages and both sexes 365 days of the year.

However, in making the change from a summer time system supervised by untrained local talent and reaching only a very small percent of the citizens, it was necessary to get outside help if we were to make it a year-round system.

The National Playground Association was called upon and started the work with a splendid recreation institute. This institute was most worthy in that it acquainted the people of the city with what was being done. More than seventy-five prospective playground directors and volunteers received the theory and practice of recreation work in a two weeks' course given by specialists from the National Association. A survey was made by the leaders of the institute and advice given based upon the findings and results obtained in hundreds of cities in starting their work. Personally, I believe that the success of the work today is due in a large measure to the help and direction obtained in the recreation institute, and that any city starting its recreation for the first time should take advantage of the splendid help and cooperation of the National Association.

The success of any venture is based upon the standard of *Results*. The average monthly attendance in our work has been more than 18,000. Six playgrounds, five white and one colored, were conducted and the days were evenly divided between games, dramatics, music, and handicraft. Each week between 700 and 1,000 boys and girls took part in a broad jump, a dash, or ball throw. Hundreds of attractive games were played. Baskets and other pieces of handicraft were made on the playground. Two city baseball leagues not only furnished participation for more than two hundred boys and men, but enjoyment and pleasure to thousands of spectators. The high school pool was thrown open to the public and 8,359 enjoyed swimming and bathing during the two months in which it was open. More than two



hundred boys and girls, men and women, were taught swimming and life saving. Two city football leagues and four tennis tournaments were the outstanding athletic events of the fall while the department promoted and put on, with the co-operation of the local club and organizations, a City-Wide Safety Campaign. Life Saving exhibitions were staged in all swimming pools in and around the city and free swimming lessons given at several pools. Physical training for police and firemen, city-wide athletic meets, and water carnivals created much enthusiasm. Outdoor dramatics with children making stages and costumes were also featured during the summer months.

As an evidence of the city's interest and appreciation the Playground and Recreation Commission was the recipient of the following gifts during July and August:

- A civic club presented a \$1,000 wading pool.
- One newspaper gave \$300 in medals.
- Three sport shops gave \$100 for trophy cups.
- One citizen gave a \$400 moving picture machine.
- A Negro club gave \$200 for a wading pool.

One civic club gave several thousand dollars to be used for playground equipment. The Parent-Teachers' Associations of the city duplicated this amount, thereby spending \$6,000 in grading and equipping the playgrounds of our schools. The use of these grounds has been tendered the Recreation Commission by the City Board of Education. Fuller School is proud of having a real model playground.

Two thousand dollars were spent in this work by the High School Parent-Teachers' Association. Instead of purchasing playground equipment as did the elementary schools, the Association developed playground opportunity by constructing five up-to-date tennis courts and enclosing them with a handsome fence. The enclosure also contains a little park space 60 feet by 120 feet which will be beautified with trees, flowers, and grass and provided with drinking fountains and comfortable seats.

Many citizens and clubs are anxious to know what they can do. The local newspapers in many instances are an indication of the sentiment of the public. *The Morning Herald* in writing of our recreation program says: "The recreation institute which has just been completed in this city is the beginning of one of the most important phases of municipal life. It is an intelligent effort upon the part of the city to provide for the sane use of leisure hours."

For the benefit of those who know John Bradford, who conducted our institute, I cannot refrain from quoting further from the *Durham Morning Herald*. It refers to John Bradford as being, "A radio set in full operation without a particle of static."

*The Durham Sun* says, "Durham's recreation and playground work is under way. We take our hats off to those officials, civic bodies, and citizens who by their insistent hammering brought it about, and to the Commission which has put it into effect. The work has started off with a bang. It is remarkably well organized. It is operated with energy and dispatch. It is orderly, supervised and getting results."

The Playground Commission has employed C. R. Wood as Director and a better man could not have been found. He is wide awake to every opportunity and his recreation programs take care of all ages from the kiddies to the grown-ups. The Superintendent of Welfare says juvenile delinquency had been decreased during the past few months. The people of Durham are aware of the need of acquiring land for parks and every organization is busy doing its bit toward advancing the recreation movement, believing there is a real need for community recreation.

Again I wish to express our gratefulness to the National Recreation Association for its wonderful guidance at all times.

## On the Control of Crime

In a symposium on the control of crime appearing in the December 7th issue of *Better Times*, a number of social workers give their answers to the question *What Would You Do to Control Crime?*

Dr. John L. Elliott, Headworker of Hudson Guild, says:

"What we want to do is control people, not crime. We can do it best by a proper guidance of youth. Give youth directed outlets for physical energy—playgrounds, parks, supervised play, well regulated dance halls. Free him from the repressive discipline of the public school and develop him through understanding him and his aspirations and his capabilities."

Miss Alice Smith, Chief Probation Officer, Women's Court, says:

"I should say that the three great essentials in the control of crime are careful child-rearing, supervised recreation and vocational training."



## A Negro Spiritual Contest in Columbus

Anyone who has heard negro spirituals sung by the colored people themselves realizes how beautiful and inspiring these old religious songs of the negroes are.



USING PORTABLE SHOWER, COLUMBUS, GA.

Mr. Walter J. Cartier, Director of the Department of Recreation in Columbus, Ga., has intro-



HIGH SCHOOL PONIES AT THE CIRCUS

duced a new idea in singing contests through the holding of a contest in negro spirituals among

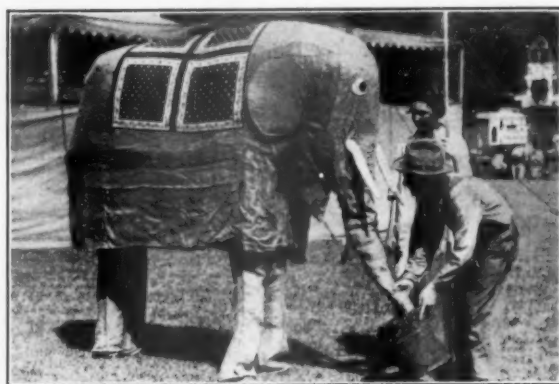


THE CHARIOT RACE, GIRLS ATHLETIC FIELD DAY

the children of the colored playgrounds.

This contest was held at the St. James colored church. A group of fifty boys and girls represented each playground. No group could have more than fifty voices on the platform at one time though as many as necessary might be trained. Fewer than fifty might compete but not more. Adult leadership could be used in training the singers, but on the night of the competition no one over sixteen was allowed on the platform. Each group was required to have a leader or lead voice within the age limit.

One section was reserved for white people at 25c a seat. Tickets for colored people were:



BONAPARTE, THE IRISH ELEPHANT

Adults, 15c; children, 10c, and reserved seats, 10c.

Each group sang four spirituals. Two were required—*I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray* and *Knock and the Door Shall Be Opened*; the other two could be selected. The three leaders drew for choice of position, after which each group sang one number alternately.



PART OF THE CIRCUS, COLUMBUS, GA.



A HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Judging was based on harmony, unity, ease of performance, difficulty of selection and general excellence. Five judges were supplied by the Department of Recreation.

While the judges were deciding on the winners, the Negro Community Singers sang *Little David Play on Your Harp* and *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* and their leader, Dr. Taylor, gave a solo,

choosing a song that was composed by a negro woman in Macon, Ga. Miss Hattie Taylor, colored probation officer, spoke of the self-reliance of the Columbus negroes in regard to their playgrounds. She told how the colored people of the city had raised among themselves a thousand dollars to equip the Phyllis Wheatley playground and spoke of their intention of doing the same



GIRL CLOWNS AT THE PLAYGROUND CIRCUS



VOLUNTEER LEADERS TRAINING CLASS, SUMMER 1924, COLUMBUS, GA.

thing for the other colored playgrounds of the city.

The judges had real difficulty in deciding the order in which the prizes should be given—all the selections were so beautifully rendered. The first prize went to the Booker Washington group, which sang with astonishing richness of tone and feeling. One of the songs was led by a little girl only seven years old and the group contained many young children. The second prize went to the Phyllis Wheatley group, which sang with fire and fine ensemble effect. The third prize went to the Dunbar group, which rendered its selections very sweetly and deserved great credit for working against handicaps in the loss of leadership.

The proceeds of the contest were equally divided between the playgrounds to be used for the securing of playground apparatus.

Both white and colored people were delighted with the evening's entertainment. The old-time spirituals—beautiful in themselves—were sung with such expression and emotional feeling that they could not fail to inspire the listeners.

Group singing is to be made a regular and permanent feature of the playground activities in Columbus hereafter.

## A Hiking Club in Memphis, Tennessee

The Recreation Department of Memphis, Tennessee, has developed a hiking club open to all girls nine years of age and over and to boys from nine to twelve, all of whom will be known as *Foresters*. To become a member of the Recreation Department Hiking Club and to receive the Forestry emblem it is necessary for a boy or girl to know the pledge, to dress properly for hikes, to be able to build a campfire for cooking, using not more than three matches, to be adept at preparing at least three different articles of food over a camp fire and to have hiked at least fifteen miles and to have been on not less than three hikes.

To receive the emblems of the Four Seasons a Forester must have fulfilled requirements like the following for each season:

Have attended three of the hikes held during December, January and February and must know and have a collection of foliage of ten evergreen trees and shrubs.

Have attended three of the hikes held March, April and May and must know and be able to describe at least ten birds native to this community.

# The Children's Village

By

HELEN SEDGEWICK JONES

"Can't I take you through the Village? I'm the Village Guide." This from a small, round-eyed Jewish girl of eleven years, who was encountered at the Village entrance. And just inside the door what a busy scene was in progress!



THE REGISTRATION LINE ON ANY VILLAGE DAY AT STANFIELD HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Children hurrying to and fro with market baskets, storekeepers selling their wares, street sweepers busily cleaning the streets—a miniature community in action!

To play house is natural with a child. To play village is only a step further and gives a chance for a broader application on the part of the play leader and more fun for the children. Three of these Children's Villages exist in Philadelphia—an experiment made possible through a fund administered by the Fidelity Trust Company, and created under the wills of Richard and Sarah Smith, of that city—two citizens who were always much interested in the play of children. One Village is at Northern Liberties, one at Stanfield House and a third at Ferry Road. All are under the direction of Mrs. Phoebe H. Valentine, under whose leadership the idea has been developed. In these villages, the children learn many lessons in the social structure of community life and many worth while facts on the practical side of daily living—things which a most intelligent mother *might* teach them but never

with half the fun that it is here among all these playing children. One or two half-days a week are devoted to this Village play and how they are enjoyed!

To set up the Village is part of the fun and so some children come early to help. On the spacious floor of the house at Northern Liberties, and this, in general plan, is like the others, streets are marked out with signs, traffic signals are put up, houses are built with latticed screen partitions, 100 strong, with a table and three or four chairs in each, a hospital is equipped with small beds; a store, a fruit stand, a butcher shop are set up, and a bank, employment bureau, school and post office are organized.

When the doors are opened the children push in—literally hundreds of them—to enjoy these two or three hours of "make-believe." Those who wish to be mothers go to the registration desk, give their names and secure slips, which say "Take this to the bank and get \$2.50 in money." The money is most attractive paper money, which



ONE OF THE VILLAGE FAMILIES, CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

helps make arithmetic easy. Storekeepers receive \$2.00. No one can be a mother and occupy a house unless she has three children. Not all houses have fathers but all have mothers and in many cases the boys choose to play this role. Immediately the Village becomes a scene of





THE GROCERY, CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

bustling activity. Mothers find and organize their homes, the nurses and doctors put wash basins and bottles (full of water) in the hospital for future use, the storekeeper gets out his empty farina boxes and baking powder cans, the butcher stocks up with slices of wooden ham, steak, and wooden chops, which the children have made themselves, the fruit vendor and vegetable man display their realistic fruit and vegetables made of cloth, and the employment bureau hangs out such signs as "Storekeeper Wanted"—or "Wanted, Nurse." Soon mothers are seen scurrying through the streets with their market baskets, buying provisions which they secure with their paper money. A child comes through the streets, loudly ringing a school bell, and the mothers bundle their children off to learn their "A, B, C's." An inquiry to one as to why her child was not in school brought the answer, "I'm going to get her work," and the Employment Bureau was soon given another applicant. In the laundry the children actually wash and iron the aprons of the storekeepers and nurses—using the regular house equipment of small irons, gas stoves, and

ironing boards. A restaurant with fake bottles of milk and realistic-looking bricks of Neapolitan ice cream has considerable business. Village Safety Patrols and a Street Cleaning Department make the most of their jobs.

Many children deposit money in the bank and an account of all savings is kept by the banker. Here an older boy assists in keeping the accounts straight. Sometimes the child draws out all his money the same day, but even though all money is put together at night, there is a record at the bank of what each child has saved. A jail was once established but the children became too much interested in getting into it and therefore a court was organized, which meets other days than on village days and tries any offenders. A small museum houses numerous curios belonging to the children and these are well-marked according to their merits. Hung up in a conspicuous place there is a box requesting news items, stories and poems for the *Gazette*, which is a mimeographed sheet composed of the contributions collected—the Village newspaper.

The Village has a mayor and other officers who



are nominated and elected by ballot on a Village Day. During the week there are meetings of storekeepers, mothers, village safety patrols and other groups, when they are made aware of their duties, and ideas concerning the workings of the play community are given by the various members and discussed.

These meetings and the gatherings of the children for the making of toys and vegetables on other than village play days help to carry the idea and atmosphere of the Village through the week.

Children up to thirteen or fourteen years of age play in the Village. Above this age, interest in this form of "make-believe" wanes, so it is not hard to regulate the age limit. The children are largely Irish, German and Russian Jews. Several workers help to guide them in the conduct of this make-believe community, but the children feel, as they well may, that it is their very own, and they take their responsibilities very seriously.

At the end of the day, the storekeepers come around to collect their goods, the money is all returned to the bank, and the children help to put away the chairs and partitions. The Village day is over, but many child minds are looking forward to another day not far ahead when the Village will be again set up in all its glory, and they may once more live for a few hours in the land of "make-believe."

## A Plea for Educational Leadership

"Tomorrow in all of the newspapers will appear headlines on the sporting pages calling attention to the athletic achievements of 1925. It will be hailed as the most successful year in sports to date. Then will follow a long list of records broken or equalled, together with a list of the various sports with the names of the star performers in each one. We will read and be thrilled. Then some of us will pause and think back to those other headlines which were flashed on the front pages not so many years ago—"One-third of Our Men Unfit for Active Service"—and pursuing that thought will come to us a picture of here and there a huge stadium with seats for fifty, sixty, seventy thousand people—empty—deserted—millions of dollars—idle—unused. Isn't there something wrong somewhere? Is it with our leadership?

"Some day a newspaper with the courage of its convictions will startle the public with these statements—"This has been the most brilliant year ever recorded in sports and recreation. Few records have been broken. Many a time the grandstands were only half full. We didn't send teams abroad —BUT

- \$100,000,000 has been spent, not on grandstands, but on athletic fields, playgrounds, swimming pools, gymnasias, parks and equipment;
- 20,000 additional instructors, coaches and play leaders were provided;
- Factories worked at night in an endeavor to fill orders for athletic and recreational equipment;
- 1000 more cities have provided playgrounds;
- 25% more of the population played golf, tennis, basketball, football and baseball than ever played before;
- The hip flask has gone out of style;
- Statistics show that crime has been reduced 25%;
- The death rate has been decreased 25%;
- Physical efficiency and proficiency tests show that the average performance has increased 15%;
- 75% of the population has participated in physical recreation of some kind;
- The Nation as a whole is more efficient than it has ever been.'

"Isn't that a wild and imaginative piece of reading? And yet, if the purposes and ideals of this meeting are ever realized we may eventually read just such a statement as legitimate news, and it will be sensational and colorful enough to catch anybody's imagination. That is my first point. It all depends upon leadership."

These extracts are quoted from a paper entitled, *A Plea for Educational Leadership*, presented by Miss Agnes Weyman of Barnard College at the Conference on Training for Leadership recently held in New York under the auspices of the Women's Division, National Athletic Association Federation. A full report of the conference and the findings of the four committees growing out of the conference may be secured from the Women's Division at 2 West 46th Street, New York, for \$5.00.

# A County Music Festival for Children

By

MARGARET MOCHRIE

In a huge tent, the circus kind that offers such potent attraction to children about this time of year, children will themselves be the attraction when 3,000 of them from the schools of Westchester County sing at the Westchester County Music Festival on the afternoon of May 21. The festival, which is the second annual event of its kind in Westchester County, will be given at Valhalla, N. Y., on May 20, 21 and 22. It is being managed by the Westchester Choral Society, under the auspices of the Westchester County Recreation Commission, of which Mrs. Chester G. Marsh is director.

The Junior Music Festival, as the children's program is called, will be a splendid example in the United States of cooperative activity in vocal music extending to the schools of an entire county. It will also double the number of participants in the Westchester County Festival, which is the largest affair of its kind in the country.

For the Junior Festival a chorus of 2,500 unchanged voices is being organized from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the various schools, a chorus of 500 from high school glee clubs, and a one hundred piece orchestra from the best high school instrumental talent in the county. With the adult chorus, which is expected to exceed 2,000, and with the Negro and foreign chorals, as well as the junior group, the number of actual participants in the festival will be between 5,000 and 6,000. The Choral Society emphasizes the wholly democratic, as well as the high artistic ideals which govern the enterprise.

"Nothing less than the best is being attempted," says Mrs. Eugene Meyer, chairman of the Choral Society's Board of Governors. "But the most fortunate aspect of the whole idea lies, not so much in the program, as in the opportunity which it offers for thousands to participate and help carry it out. The Junior Festival this year brings in a new group and enhances the community value of the whole affair."

The plans for the Junior Music Festival are being carried out through the Westchester County Music Teachers' Association, comprising supervisors and other professional teachers of music. A committee of supervisors, under the

chairmanship of Dr. Victor L. F. Rebmann, director of music in the public schools of Yonkers, and an advisory committee of school superintendents developed the plans and organized the work.

The response of the schools of the county to the invitation to participate in the festival has been even more satisfactory than the most optimistic dared to hope. School systems of 24 communities joined in the enterprise with the result that, far from experiencing any difficulty in enlisting the 3,000 boys and girls for the chorus and glee club, the committee found that the real problem would be to hold down the total to such number as could be efficiently handled and properly accommodated.

Music classes in the schools are now rehearsing the festival music contained in a special pamphlet, with the imprint of the Junior Music Festival on the cover. Prominent among the selections will be Handel's *The Hills*, with a text specially written for this program. The choruses for unchanged voices are mostly in unison, with a few two-part songs. The high school glee club music contains some four-part songs, several with orchestra accompaniments.

The plan decided upon as the fairest way to acquire thoroughly representative choruses involves the division of the junior chorus into 100 units of 25 each, and of the high school glee club of 500 into 20 units of 25 each. Each school system participating will be allowed one grade school unit and each glee club will be represented by one glee club unit. The remainder will be apportioned to communities according to population. The desire, of course, is that every community shall be fully represented.

The supervisors of music in the various communities work first with large groups, finally cutting down the number in any unit to those boys and girls whose voices, responsiveness and training justify their selection. The pupils enjoy the rehearsals all the more because each is engaged in a contest for the privilege of taking part in the festival.

The setting in which both the junior and adult festivals are to take place could scarcely be im-



SITE OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY FESTIVAL

This is an airplane view of Kensico Dam and plaza at Valhalla, N. Y. By permission of the New York City Department of Water Supply, a giant tent will be pitched on this plaza for Westchester County's annual music festival, May 20, 21 and 22, featuring a trained chorus of 2,000 or more voices drawn from local choral organizations throughout the county. The site is regarded as one of the finest in the country for such a purpose. It is centrally located and is the present terminus of the Bronx River Parkway, running thirteen miles from the New York City line directly to the site. (©Hamilton Maxwell, New York.)

(Reprinted from *Musical Courier*, February 4, 1926)

proved upon for an outdoor musical event. The tent, seating an audience of 6,000, will be pitched on the great plaza fronting the Kensico dam at Valhalla, where the wall of the dam, with the surrounding hills, makes a natural sounding-board. A pool in the shadow of the dam's dappled grey wall will be illuminated during the evening festival performances.

Not only is the location a happy one because of its excellent acoustic properties and its great natural beauty, but because its name, Valhalla, was made musically immortal in the operas of Richard Wagner, as the mythical realm where lived the Valkyrie. It also happens that the third day of the festival, May 22, is the anniversary of the birth of Wagner.

Dr. Rebmann, chairman of the Junior Music Festival Committee, believes that participation by school children in the festival will not only be of

benefit to the community and to the individual boys and girls, but to the schools as well.

"I believe that it will give public school music in Westchester a wonderful impetus," he says. "This is an unusual opportunity to unite musical forces from all schools in the county. It will react favorably upon the schools in general, through the creation of good-will on the part of citizens. And, in addition, the children will get a spiritual thrill that they will cherish as long as they live."

Man was not made for a "comfortable" existence, and is only belittled by attempts to satisfy him on those lines. Whether we study the structure of his body or the structure of his mind, we see him designed for difficult and majestic operations, and as one who will never be satisfied with anything that deprives him of these.

—L. P. JACKS.

# Suggestions for the Dramatic Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Purchase of Manhattan 1626 - 1926

COMPILED AND ARRANGED BY

CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY

"Nothing shows the character of a people more truly than the manner in which it observes its holidays, and the kind of amusement followed by a nation is a fairly true index to its degree of moral development."—*Helen Philbrook Patten*

In celebrating this anniversary of the purchase of Manhattan it should be kept in mind that Indian as well as Dutch material can be used, since the history of the Five Nations and that of the Dutch Settlers were closely intertwined. It will be possible, also, to combine in a program a play of 1626 with a tableau or a play such as *Hendric Hudson*, which antedates the period, or one which immediately follows it, as, for example, *Rip Van Winkle*. The main period, of course, should be kept.

## PLAYS FOR LITTLE THEATRES

*My Lady's Lace*, a one-act play by Edward Knobloch in a volume entitled, *One Act Plays*, edited by Weber and Webster, two men and two women in cast. The setting is a garden, so the play may be acted either indoors or out-of-doors. A charming clever Dutch play whose scene could just as easily be New Amsterdam as Old Amsterdam. Suited to Little Theatres, colleges and high school groups. The plot concerns the outwitting of a Dutch burgher by a clever Dutch girl who loves a poor young Dutchman. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$1.40. Royalty.

*Shadows of the Night*, by Euphemia Van Rensselaer Wyatt. Powerful one-act tragedy of New Amsterdam in 1644—though it could equally well be acted for 1626. Indoor scene. Two men, two women. The play concerns the faithlessness and terror of a Dutch settler's wife. It is adapted to Little Theatres, and was first produced by the

Threshold Theatre of New York. It is in manuscript, and can be obtained from the author, Mrs. Christopher Wyatt, 13 Lexington Avenue, New York. Royalty.

## PLAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

*Rip Van Winkle*, a play by Charles Burke. Two acts: nine scenes; could be arranged in two scenes. Three women, seventeen men and twelve children. Could be given outdoors with Dutch merrymaking introduced. Is of a later date than 1626, yet could appropriately be used as a celebration. Samuel French. \$.25. No royalty.

*The Vanishing Race*, from *Plays of the Pioneers* by C. D. Mackay. One woman and twenty men in cast, or it can be given by a cast of boys. If desired, a dozen Indian maidens can appear in background. The play is based on historical material telling of the purchase of a great tract of land owned by the Five Nations by Arendt van Curler. It has recently been revived in Schenectady, New York, as part of the Dutch celebration. It is adapted to a boys' school. Harper Bros. \$2.50. No royalty.

*The Capture of Ozah*, by Helen P. Kane. Indian play in one act and two scenes. Same outdoor setting throughout. Two men, two women in cast. The play concerns the wooing of Ozah, and its characters are Mohawks and Senecas. The plot is slight, but enhanced by authentic Indian songs and customs. Ozah is a woman Peace Maker, and the scene is laid in the 18th century in New York State. It would fit in well in a program of Indian plays. It is equally good for high schools and camps. Samuel French. \$.30. No royalty for amateurs.



*Yagowanea*, by Helen P. Kane. An Indian tragedy in one act and two scenes. One woman and five men in cast. Time: 1655. New York State. One scene throughout, a forest with an Indian lodge in the background. *Yagowanea*, keeper of the House of Peace for the Five Nations, betrays her trust when she finds that her little son has been killed, and because she betrays her trust her tribe is destroyed. Indian music and history skillfully interwoven. There are moments of tragic suspense, and the piece requires good acting. Equally suited to high school or camp. Samuel French. \$.25. No royalty for amateurs.

## PLAYS FOR CHILDREN

*Katjen's Garden*, by Katherine Lord in the *Little Play Book*. This is a play for *little children*, and belongs to that admirable class where the cast can be diminished or augmented at will. A dozen boys and girls may take part in it, or it may be given by a cast composed entirely of girls. It is as bright-colored as a Dutch tulip, and can be given indoors or out-of-doors. Duffield Company, New York. \$1.50. For permission to produce consult author in care of the publisher.

*Little American History Plays for Little Americans*, by E. Hubbard, has a scene of the Purchase of Manhattan arranged for six boys and a dozen supernumeraries. Sanborn. \$.90.

Scenes from Life in New Amsterdam can be built from *Historical Plays of Colonial Days*, by Louise E. Tucker. The scenes are slight, yet authentic, and used in sequence as interludes before a curtain would give an excellent picture of Dutch life in old New York. Originally written for the fifth grade, they are not in the least childish, and (with the exception of *The Easter Rabbit*) could be used for much older children, since the language is simple and dignified, and the ideas those of older people. Among these plays are *The Strategy of Director Kieft*. One-act play. Outdoor scene. Six boys and one girl, and as many wedding guests as desired. This incident briefly shows how the money was raised to build the first church in New Amsterdam. The action centers round a Dutch wedding breakfast, and as many dancers and quaint Dutch customs as desired can be woven into the text. Another one act play in the same volume is *A Skirmish at Rensselaerswijck*. The time is 1641. In the cast

are three girls, three boys, three older youths and two older girls to play adults. Interior scene of a Dutch home. The little play, slight in texture, concerns a skirmish with the Indians. A third play in this volume suited to very young children is *The Easter Rabbit*. Outdoor scene. Six boys, five girls and extras in cast. Shows spring customs in New Amsterdam. Very brief episode, but could be combined with other one act plays or form part of a program with *Dutch Ditties for Children*, by Anice Terhune, listed further on. Longmans Green Company. \$.80.

*Yot-che-ka*, by Helen P. Kane. A one-act Indian play of the 16th century, antedating the settlement of New Amsterdam. Four boys and one Indian maiden. Scene: Outside a tent. Can be given indoors or outdoors. Boy of the Erie Tribe taken captive by the five nations persistently remembers his own people. Very slight little piece yet useful because of its authentic Indian songs with music, and its great simplicity of production. Excellent for a summer camp. Samuel French. \$.30.

*For Home and Country*, by Annie Russell Marble. A pageant which can be given indoors, and is suited either to a school or a church. There are processional effects up the aisles, singing, pantomime and very little speaking. It gives a splendid outline of American history, and there is an excellent scene of the Dutch Settlers. Dances can be introduced if desired. From 100 to 400 can take part in it. Can be obtained from the author, Marble Street, Worcester, Massachusetts. \$.15. No royalty.

*America Triumphant*, by Constance D'Arcy Mackay. This pageant, in eight scenes, has an episode showing the purchase of Manhattan from the Indians, the dialogue and procedure based on the historical documents of the time. It was published in the *Woman's Home Companion* for October, 1925, and in March, 1926, by the Appleton Company. (\$1.25.) It gives an outline history of America, with dialogue, dance and processional effect. From 150 to 500 can take part in it. It is essentially for out-of-door production. Royalty.

## FESTIVALS

A Dutch Kermis or festival can easily be arranged for out-of-door production. It may center

around a Dutch market day or a Dutch wedding in New Amsterdam. The latter gives a fine outlet for colorful costumes and dances. Have a huge improvised wedding windmill in the background hung with great rose-garlands and immense golden hearts. Ideas for such an authentic windmill will be found in a fascinating illustrated article in *Scribner's* for May, 1925, entitled *The Last Stand of the Windmill in Holland* by Cornelius Botke. A Wooden Shoe Dance may be secured from Chalif Dancing School. \$.50.

#### TABLEAUX

Enchanting tableaux of old Manhattan with explanatory recitations and songs can be evolved from two charming books. The first of these is *Dutch Ditties for Children: Fifteen Songs with Piano Accompaniment*, by Anice Terhune, with quaint illustrations by Albertine Randall Whelan. Very little children—primary grade age—would be utterly delightful in such tableaux-songs as: *The Secret; The Upset Shoe; The Hungry Windmill; The Tulip Garden; The Knitters; Little Christmas Shoes and Good-night*. G. Schirmer. \$1.25.

The second book is *Ballads of Old New York*, by Arthur Guiterman. Many of these short ballads could be used for young people of more mature years, including *Hudson's Voyage; Rambont Van Dam* and *The Lord of the Dunderberg*. Preceding the tableau some of these ballads can be read. They are spirited verse of Old New York with swing and rhythm that children and young people will appreciate, as well as adults. Pirates, discoverers, market women, burghers, Indians and aristocrats appear in these captivating lines. Harper Bros. \$2.00.

#### PANTOMIME

*School Days in New Amsterdam*. A charming pantomime can be arranged from Arthur Guiterman's quaint poem of that name. It begins with a Dutch dance; then come Dutch lassies and lads on their way to school, pantomime of the school room, scholars and dunce, and the joy and dancing as the session ends. For the convenience of those staging such a pantomime, the poem, which originally appeared in the *New York Times* is quoted here. This pantomime was given in the Town Hall, New York, May, 1924.

Our city's sons and daughters  
When old New York was new  
Explored Manhattan's waters  
And hills and valleys, too.  
For strong they were and ruddy  
And made for sport and play,  
And still they had to study.  
As children must, today.  
No pedagogue was sterner  
Than theirs—the profiteer  
Who charged for every learner  
Two beaver skins a year!  
The windows needed glasses,  
The benches needed pads  
For the burgers' winsome lassies  
And the burghers' lively lads.

From sum-books and from hornbooks  
They learned to add and spell.  
From other worn and torn books  
They learned to read as well.  
They lunched on "oly koekies"  
In spring the boys were much  
Too fond of "cutting hookies"  
That's "truancy" in Dutch  
But those abandoned sinners  
With dunderpates who tripped  
In "Latin for Beginners"  
Were roundly, soundly whipped.  
They had no dancing classes  
Or other frills and fads  
The burghers' hearty lassies  
And the burghers' sturdy lads.

In mild September weather  
Began the master's rule;  
In pairs and groups together  
The pupils trudged to school  
Till June, with rosy garlands,  
Came in and set them free  
To range our near and far lands,  
Our glens, our woods, our sea.  
No streets were dark and sooty;  
No squares were racked with din—  
Oh, Isle of vanished beauty,  
How dear it must have been  
Your ferny ways or grassy  
To wander, free and glad,  
A burgher's laughing lassie  
Or a burgher's happy lad!!

Scene one is played in front of plain curtains. Children are seen passing to school. They give

a Dutch dance. Suddenly realizing it is school time, they break off the dance and run off stage.

Scene two. The curtains part, disclosing the bare Dutch school room, the teacher's desk, scholars' desks, blackboard and dunce's stool. Children enter, also the parents who pay the school master beaver skins for the children's tuition. Much excitement is shown over singling out the children from whom the particular skins are paid. Parents depart and school begins. Bad boys play pranks; some try to steal away to play "hookies" but are caught and brought back. Later the class is called in pantomime. Those who do not know their lessons are whipped by the school master and returned to their places. Or this may be done for a spelling match in pantomime. The boy who is always at the foot of the class is finally perched on the dunce's stool. The curtains close on the picture of a busy morning for all concerned. Then the children are seen returning from school in a little procession.

#### DUTCH COSTUMES

*Ballads of Old New York*, by Arthur Guiterman, contains splendid line drawings of early Dutch costumes.

*Costuming a Play*, by Elizabeth B. Grimball and Rhea Wells, Century Company. \$3.00.

*Costumes and Scenery for Amateurs*, by C. D. Mackay, Henry Holt. \$2.00.

*History of Our Country*, illustrated by Reuben P. Halleck, American Book Company. \$1.60.

*Rip Van Winkle* (New edition), illustrated by Eric Pape, Macmillan Company. \$1.75.

*The Goede Vrouw of Mana-ha-ta*, by Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer (Charles Scribner), out of print but can be found in many public libraries.

#### DUTCH MUSIC

Dutch Music may be found in the following:

*IN HOLLAND*, by Christiaan Kriens. A Dutch Suite in four parts, for violin and piano or orchestra.

No. 1—Morning on the Zuider Zee \$.60

No. 2—The Dutch Mill..... \$.34

No. 3—Evening Sounds ..... \$.34

No. 4—Wooden Shoe Dance..... \$.67

Carl Fischer, New York City.

*MAZOURKA HOLLANDAISE*, by Christiaan Kriens, violin and piano. Carl Fischer. \$.75.

#### COLLECTION OF DUTCH FOLK SONGS

with piano accompaniment. Compiled and edited by Coenrood Bros. These especially recommended: *William of Nassau* and *There Lingers a Lassie*. G. Schirmer. \$.75.

#### DUTCH AND INDIAN DANCES

Dutch and Indian dances may be found in *Dances, Drills and Story Playing*, by Nina B. Lamkin. (For Dutch dance see page 24.) There are two Indian dances, a Dance of Spring and the Corn Dance. Denison Company. \$1.25.

#### GAMES

Handball Nine Pins Quoits Backgammon

#### SCHOOL EXHIBITS

Scene of the purchase of Manhattan Island worked out with costumed dolls.

Model of little village of New Amsterdam with tiny toy houses and ship in the harbor.

Post cards of old New York mounted with post cards of modern New York to show the amazing change and growth of the City.

Doll representing first white boy born in Manhattan, Jean Vanje.

Doll representing first white girl born in Manhattan, Sarah Rapaelje.

Quaint old colored maps of New York showing the Bowerie, Minneta Lane and other historical sections. (Material for suggestions in this line can be found in *Nicholas*, by Annie Carroll Moore, where a map is given; and in *Historic New York*, edited by Maude Wilder Goodwin. In the latter volume there are fascinating models for Dutch houses and streets.)

#### HANDCRAFT

Many fascinating articles may be made by the children in the handcraft classes of the school and playground, among them the following:

Toy windmills

Windmill book ends

Bookmarks of ribbon with the seal of New York in gold sealing-wax

Models of Dutch ships, (1626) either carved in wood, or made in cardboard silhouette

Tulip pots

Tulip flower markers for gardens

Small Dutch chests

Dutch market baskets

Golden weather cocks such as that now on the corner of 29th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York, which decorated the first stone church built in the colony

Indian beads and bead work, particularly blue beads in imitation of "sewant" a blue clam-shell bead more valuable than wampum

#### STORYTELLING

*The Blue Heron's Feather*, by Rupert Sargent Holland. The adventures of a Dutch boy in Old New York. Immensely popular with children, J. B. Lippincott Company.

*A Maid of Old Manhattan*, by Emilie Benson Knipe, Macmillan Company. \$1.75.

*When Old New York was New*, by Charles Hemstreet. (Material here can be adapted.) Out of print. May be consulted in libraries.

*Ballads of Old New York*, by Arthur Guiterman. (Verses with swing and action that children will greatly enjoy.) Harper Brothers. \$2.00.

#### HIKING TRIPS TO POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

Three centuries of New York might be united by a trip to the Battery, New York City, for old Dutch days; to Fraunces' Tavern, 54 Pearl Street, or to the Jumel Mansion, 160th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, for Colonial days; and to the Roosevelt House, 28 East 20th Street, for the modern Dutch.

Books that will enhance and enliven Manhattan tours for young people are:

*New York Walk Book*, by R. H. Torrey and others, American Geographical Society. \$2.00.

*The Children's City*, by Esther Singleton, Macmillan Company. \$1.75.

*Ballads of Old New York*, by Arthur Guiterman, to lend the imaginative quality. The preface of this book is especially valuable in giving a bird's-eye view of historic places and atmosphere.

#### OLD NEW YORK AND NEW NEW YORK

(Comparisons for study clubs or women's clubs)

Two books that give glimpses by which old New York and new New York can be fascinatingly compared are:

*Historic New York*, by Maude Wilder Goodwin (out of print).

*The New New York*, by John C. Van Dyke, a remarkable volume marvelously illustrated by Joseph C. Pennell, who has caught the tower-

ing spirit of "the magical city." Macmillan Company. \$4.00.

#### REFERENCE BOOKS

*The Story of the Walloons*, by William Elliot Griffis, "The first permanent settlers who in any number came with wives and children to make homes and to till the soil in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware." Houghton Mifflin Company. \$2.00.

*In Old New York*, by Thomas A. Janvier, Illustrated. Harper Bros. \$3.50.

*The Goede Vrouw of Mana-ha-ta*, by Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer. (Charles Scribner.) Out of print, but can be found in many public libraries.

*The Dutch Founding of New York*, by Thomas A. Janvier. Out of print. Can be found in libraries.

*Nicholas*, the story of a Dutch doll, by Annie Carroll Moore, gives the adventures of the doll in modern New York, with the flavor of old New York running all through it. Children will delight in the quaint maps which the book contains. Putnam. \$2.00.

*Colonial New York*, by George W. Schuyler, out of print.

*The Livingstons of Livingston Manor*, by Edwin B. Livingston. Out of print.

*Knickerbocker's History of New York*, by Washington Irving. In many editions; cheapest, \$2.25.

*New York*, by Theodore Roosevelt. Longmans Green & Company. \$1.50.

*The Mohawk Valley, Its Legends and Its History*, by William R. Maxwell. Fine illustrations and photographs. Out of print.

*The Book of New York Verse*, edited by Hamilton Fish Armstrong. Gives poems of New York from earliest days to the present. Begins with Hendrick Hudson and ends with modern Manhattan. Contains poems by Charles Hanson Towne, Marguerite Wilkinson, Sara Teasdale and others. Excellent for contrast of the old and new in city life; but more for adults than children. Putnam, \$3.50.

#### ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHERS

American Book Company, 100 Washington Square, East, New York City

American Geographical Society, Broadway and 156th Street, New York City



Appleton, D. Appleton & Company, 35 West 32nd Street, New York City.  
 Century Company, 353 Fourth Avenue, New York City  
 Chalif Dancing School, 163 West 57th Street, New York City.  
 Denison, T. S. Denison Company, 623 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago  
 Duffield & Company, 211 East 19th Street, New York City.  
 Fischer, Carl Fischer, 56 Cooper Square, New York City.  
 French, Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.  
 Harper and Bros., 49 East 33rd Street, New York City.  
 Holt, Henry Holt & Company, 19 West 44th Street, New York City.  
 Houghton Mifflin Company, 16 East 40th Street, New York City  
 Lippincott, J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia.  
 Longmans Green & Company, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York City.  
 Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City.  
 Putnam, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2 West 45th Street, New York City.  
 Sanborn, Benjamin H. Sanborn & Company, 15 West 38th Street, New York City  
 Schirmer, G. Schirmer, 3 East 43rd Street, New York City.

## Playgrounds Gaining in Beauty

Barren playgrounds all over America are blooming into beauty spots this year. One hundred and eighty-two cities in 42 states have entered 312 playgrounds and athletic fields in the national playground beautification contest conducted by the Playground and Recreation Association of America. The \$3,000 in cash awards offered by the Harmon Foundation and \$1,650 further awards in the form of nursery stock have stimulated entries. But cities have adopted the idea with enthusiasm for reasons other than awards and national fame. They realize that the bleak, ugly space is a poor advertisement and that the contest provides an excellent objective for civic endeavor.

The South leads all other sections in the number of entries to the contest. One hundred fourteen

play fields were entered by 53 cities. New York leads the states, with 27 entries from 16 cities, Illinois being second with 26 entries from 15 cities. Memphis gained the distinction of entering more playgrounds than any other city, with 17 entries. New Orleans entered ten grounds, Fort Worth, nine, and Reading, eight.

An interesting feature of the contest is the number of small communities enlisting. Nine villages of less than 500 population have elected to beautify playgrounds, which in most cases are connected with rural schools. Antreville and Coward, S. C., each boasting 100 residents, are the smallest. There are many other entries from towns of one or two thousand. New York City is the largest city to enter.

The small cities will not have to compete with the larger, as the awards will be equally distributed among three population groups, as follows: less than 8,000 population, 8,000-25,000, more than 25,000. The leading playground in each of these groups will receive \$550, the ten playgrounds next highest, \$100. Not the most beautiful playgrounds will win, but those which have made the greatest progress in beautification by November, 1926. Hence the most unsightly ground stands a better chance to win than one which is somewhat attractive at the outset.

Children are being enlisted in the campaign as a means of encouraging nature study and pride in the playground. Shutting in playground noises through skillful planting and adapting the ground to the neighborhood are considerations.

Among the organizations cooperating are women's clubs, Parent-Teacher groups, the American Legion, men's luncheon clubs and various horticultural societies.

The *Literary Digest* for January 30, 1926, quotes Dr. M. Ashby Jones of Atlanta, as wishing that the church instead of sounding the alarm against the hurtful in pleasure, might enter eagerly and intelligently into the making of a play program for the people. Our sin, as he sees it, has been in leaving the unfilled leisure hours to be commercialized by those whose motive is to coin the play spirit into profit. There is danger that the Sabbath and all other leisure time may become a distinct hurt to civilization because we leave the making of games to those who have no sacred sense of responsibility for the influence of play upon character.

# Available Material for the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration 1776-1926

"God of peace whose spirit fills  
All the echoes of our hills  
All the murmur of our rills,  
Now the storm is o'er  
O let freemen be our sons,  
And let future Washingtons  
Rise, to lead their valiant ones  
Till there's war no more."

—John Pierpont

Just 150 years ago this July Fourth, the liberty bell rang out the signing of the Declaration of Independence. So this year a play or pageant of America's liberty is especially appropriate for school or club celebrations or the community celebration of Independence Day.

## DRAMATIZATIONS OF THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

### *For Groups from the 1st to the 3rd Grade Age*

*Independence Day in Little American History Plays for Little Americans* by Eleanor Hubbard. A one-act play in verse for boys and girls. Runs about ten minutes. This charming play, a dramatization of the famous poem "Independence Bell" represents the crowd of people waiting outside the State House for the news of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence and depicts their great rejoicing when the bell sounded the glad news. The book contains twenty-six other patriotic plays such as *The Discovery of America*, *The First Thanksgiving Day*, *The Boston Tea Party* and *Paul Revere's Ride*. Benjamin H. Sanborn Co., price, 90c.

### *For Groups from the 3rd to the 5th Grade Age*

*Declaration of Independence in Citizenship Plays* by Eleanor Hubbard. A play in one act for boys. 13 speaking parts and several extras. Runs about thirty minutes. While the words used in this dramatization are within the scope of young children, the play carries the same spirit which thrills adults when they participate in a more advanced version of the famous episode. This book contains thirty other short plays including *The Mayflower Compact*, *A Colonial School*, *The Charter Oak*. Benjamin H. Sanborn & Co., price, 90c.

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### *For Groups from the 5th Grade to High School Age*

*A Brave Deed by Brave Men* (Act III) from *Dramatized Scenes from American History* by Augusta Stevenson. About 20 speaking parts and a large number of extras. A patriotic play in three acts. The third act which is in two scenes may be given separately. The first scene, laid in the State House in Philadelphia, includes the Signing of the Declaration of Independence and offers a rare privilege for any boy to impersonate one of the famous characters of the Continental Congress of 1776. The second scene which takes place in the street in front of the State House offers an opportunity for girls to participate and gives us a picture of the people rejoicing over the act which made America independent. Runs about one hour. Six other patriotic plays are included in the book such as *The Settlement at Jamestown*, *The Pilgrims and Their Journeys*, *General George Washington*. Houghton, Mifflin Co., price, \$1.00.

### *For High School and Adult Groups*

*Dramatizations of the Declaration of Independence and The Constitutional Convention* by Zetta Dalton. These two excellent dramatizations serve the two-fold purpose of entertainment and instruction. They vividly present these two great events in the founding of our republic. Run about 45 minutes. Palmer & Co., 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass., 25c.

*The Signing of the Declaration of Independence* by C. E. B. Howe, Esq. A one act play in two scenes. For men only. This version of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence is of especial interest as it was first produced professionally in 1853 at the Maguire Opera House, San Francisco, California. It is by far the most dramatic presentation of this famous episode of history and is especially adapted to community and club groups. It will be necessary to modify a few of the sentences when used by High School groups. Runs one hour. Samuel French, price 30c.

## OTHER PLAYS OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD SUITABLE FOR THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*The Doll That Saved an Army* by Edyth M. Wormwood. An historical play in four scenes for

high school students. 12 boys, 6 girls. A patriotic American girl poses as a very young country girl and succeeds in taking important papers to George Washington by tucking them inside the head of a doll she carries. Costumes of the Revolutionary period. The character of George Washington is introduced together with some very delightful comedy. Runs about two hours. Walter Baker, price 25c.

*The Boston Tea Party* by Alice Cooke Fuller. Three short scenes. Six girls, 10 boys, a number of extras. The theme of the Boston Tea Party needs no explanation. This simple dramatization indicates the loyalty of the women to the cause and shows their determination to drink only tea brewed from "home grown" herbs. The second and third scenes depict the courage of the men who, led by Paul Revere, started on their famous mission. Plays about forty minutes and is especially adaptable for small community schools and clubs. Eldridge Entertainment House, price 25c.

*The Boston Tea Party in Dramatized Scenes from American History* by Augusta Stevenson. 18 boys, 5 girls, extras. In four acts. A splendid version of the famous story suitable for high school students. Male characters predominate in the play. Runs about one hour and half. Six other plays are included in the book. Houghton, Mifflin Co., price \$1.00.

*The Boston Tea Party in Patriotic Plays and Pageants* by Constance D. Mackay. One act, 9 boys. A version suitable for high school students. Runs about 40 minutes. The book also contains seven other plays. Henry Holt & Co., price \$1.35.

*George Washington at the Delaware* by Percy MacKaye. This dramatic action consisting of one act and a prologue is an excerpt from Mr. MacKaye's play *Washington: the Man Who Made Us*. The cast includes six men and two children, also the voices of many unseen people. The prologue may be omitted. The principal characters introduced are Thomas Paine, Lt. James Monroe, General Washington and Alexander Hamilton. This play is especially adapted to the use of high schools and colleges. Samuel French, price 50c. Royalty.

*Paul Revere's Ride in Little American History Plays for Little Americans* by Eleanor Hubbard. 5 boys and 5 animal characters. A delightful little play suitable for very young children. Runs ten minutes. The book contains twenty-six other plays. Benjamin Sanborn & Co., price 90c.

*George Washington's Fortune in Patriotic Plays and Pageants* by Constance D. Mackay. 5 boys, 1 girl. This play deals with Washington's youth,

when, as a young surveyor he had his fortune told by the gypsy Red Rowan. Suitable for senior high school. Runs about one half hour. Seven other plays are contained in the book. Henry Holt & Co., price \$1.35.

*Nathan Hale* by Clyde Fitch. 15 males, 4 females. A play in four acts with four interiors and two exteriors. A splendid dramatization of the story of one of the most famous characters in history. Costumes of the 18th Century. Parts range from broad farce to tragedy. For senior high school and adult groups. Walter Baker & Co., price 60c. Royalty \$10.00.

*Nathan Hale in Dramatic Reader No. 5* by Augusta Stevenson. 39 principal characters and extras. A simple version. Four acts of the story of this well known hero. The book also contains *Jean Valjean*, *The Maid of Orleans*, *The Black Pearl*, *The Treason of Benedict Arnold* and others. For junior and senior high school groups. Houghton, Mifflin Co., price 92c.

*The Evacuation of Boston in Baker's Patriotic Dialogues* by Edward D. Holmes. One act—one interior. 13 boys, 14 girls, extras. A short lively sketch showing the enthusiastic patriotism of a group of boys and girls who, from their window, watched the departure of the "Red Coats" from the city. Plays ten minutes. The book also contains *The Capture of the British Sentinels at Stony Point*, a sketch in one scene,—4 boys, plays five minutes; *General Gage and the Boston Boys*, one scene, 4 boys, 1 girl, extras, plays five minutes, and three other patriotic plays of thirty minutes each. Walter Baker, price 35c.

*The Keeper of the Declaration* by Julia M. Martin. A dialogue between Betty, a school girl in the grades and her grandmother. The task of committing the lines of the Declaration of Independence seems a tedious one to Betty until she learns to her surprise that her grandmother knows them almost word for word. Plays about twenty minutes. Eldridge Entertainment House, price 25c.

#### PAGEANTS

*Suitable for Entire Schools and Community Groups:*

*Toward Liberty* by Lucy Barton. A pageant play of the events leading to the Independence of the American Colonies. About 30 boys and girls for speaking parts and 50 for action parts. Simple scenery, costumes of the late 18th century. The argument is sustained by two opposing characters *Despotism* and *The New Age*. Illustrating

their points are scenes from American Colonial history: the end of the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's Midnight Alarm, and the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. Representing the spirit of the times in England appears Edmund Burke, with his speech before Parliament on "The Conciliation of the American Colonies"; in America is heard Patrick Henry's great protest ending "Give me liberty or give me death." The play runs about 45 minutes. Playground & Recreation Association of America, price 25c.

*The Spirit of Independence* by Mabel Mason Carlton and Henry Fisk Carlton. A patriotic pageant adapted to the children of the elementary grades. In eight simple scenes dating from the Boston Tea Party to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Before each episode is a prologue in which the Spirit of Independence plays an important part. This character which is first portrayed by a small child, grows taller, stronger and older as the pageant progresses and in the last episode, the part is played by a full grown girl. Also preceding each episode is a short historic outline. The book contains directions for making simple costumes together with several illustrations. Chas. Scribner's, price 80c.

*Sesquicentennial Pageants* by Lotta A. Clark, Helen Louise Cohen and Jasper L. McBrien under the auspices of the National Education Association. The book contains the following material:

I. A dramatization of the Adoption of the Declaration of Independence. This is a school room or building exercise for indoor performance.

II. Historical Pageant: A reproduction of European and Colonial antecedents of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. An out-of-doors program for the entire school system and community.

III. The Sesquicentennial Pageant at Philadelphia—an out-of-doors program by the Citizens and Schools of Philadelphia for the teachers of the nation and for sesquicentennial visitors. This is more elaborate than No. II.

The episodes are so graded that first grade children as well as high school students may participate in the pageant. Each episode may also be used as a short play on a general program. The book contains illustrations and other valuable data. In order to aid in getting the large patriotic and educational values of the sesquicentennial celebration into every school and every home in America, the National Educational Association, Wash-

ington, D. C., has undertaken to supply this material which may be obtained at the cost of preparation, printing and distribution, 50c for a single copy, five or more copies—40c each.

*A Pageant of Independence Day* by Thomas Wood Stevens. From 150 to 500 can take part in it. Better adapted to city than to rural communities. It is of high literary standard and contains several stirring scenes. Full stage directions. Obtained from the Stage Guild, price 50c.

*America Triumphant* by Constance D. Mackay. A pageant picturing the growth of America from the early Indian days to the present time. About 35 men, 8 women and many extras. The Indian episode presenting the ceremonial of the Planting of the Corn is especially beautiful. The fourth episode is of intense dramatic reality and will be of interest to all groups who are planning to participate in the Sesquicentennial celebration. D. Appleton Co., price \$1.25.

#### RECITATIONS

The following poems were well known to school children twenty years ago but are seldom found in the readers of today. By including them in this celebration a double purpose may be accomplished,—they will awaken pleasant memories for fathers and mothers and they will have for the younger generation the thrill of newness.

*George Washington* by James Russell Lowell

*The Battle of Lexington* from "Psalm of the West" by Sidney Lanier

*Paul Revere's Ride* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*Boston* (The story of the Boston Tea Party) by Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Grandmother's Story of Bunker Hill Battle* by Oliver Wendell Holmes

*The Little Black-eyed Rebel* by Will Carleton

*The Rising from "The Wagoner of the Alleghanies"* by Thomas Buchanan Read

*The Green Mountain Boys* by William Cullen Bryant

*Across the Delaware* by Will Carleton

*The Ballad of Sweet P* by Virginia Woodward Cloud. Found in "Werner's No. 22," obtained from Edgar S. Werner, price 60c

*Warren's Address* by John Pierpont

#### FOR THE BOOK SHELF

*The Declaration of Independence for Young Americans* by George W. Gerwig. A text book suitable for 7th and 8th grade and junior high



school students. Chas. H. Doran Co., price \$1.25.

*The Story of the Declaration of Independence* by Mabel Mason Carlton and Henry Fisk Carlton. Circumstances under which it came into being. Charles Scribner's, price \$.60.

*Stories of the World's Holidays* by Grace Humphrey. A splendid chapter on the events which led up to the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. Milton Bradley, price \$1.75.

*Independence Day* by Robert Haven Schauffler. A splendid collection of poems, orations and stories suitable for the celebration of America's liberty. Dodd, Mead Co., price \$2.00.

*The History of the United States and Its People* by Edward Eggleston. A text book containing illustrations and a splendid chapter on the events of this period. Appleton & Co., price \$4.00.

*Where Our History Was Made, Book I*, by John T. Faris. An interesting text book for younger children. Silver Burdett & Co., price 96c.

*America First* by Jasper L. O'Brien. A splendid book containing important historical data, famous addresses and a dramatization of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. American Book Company, price \$1.00.

#### MUSIC

Music, also, should have its place on a program of this kind. The following operetta is especially appropriate and may be presented by senior high school groups or community groups under trained leadership.

*Paul Revere* by May Hewes Dodge and John Wilson Dodge. A musical comedy in three acts—one exterior, two interiors. The action is based on the famous ride of Paul Revere, around which a pleasant romance has been woven. There is humor, pathos and plenty of action. 11 principals—3 sopranos, 2 baritones, one tenor, 5 speaking roles and a chorus. The music is bright and lively—not difficult. Colonial costumes. Runs a full evening. Right of production must be obtained from the publishers, Willis Music Company. Vocal score with full dialogue \$1.00 net. Stage Manager's book with illustrations \$1.00 net. Orchestral parts are for rent only.

Among the other patriotic operettas available, the following are recommended:

*Contest of the Nations*, an operetta with dances in one act by Frederick H. Martens and N. Clifford Page. 18 female and about 20 male characters. The chorus may include from 50 to an indefinite number. This pageant-like work repre-

sents a competition between the nations in singing, dancing and picturesqueness. It may be staged either indoors or outdoors. The music comprises folk-songs and other well-known melodies. The vocal arrangement is for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, also a violinist who plays the part of the Country Fiddler in the finale. Time of performance, one hour. Published by C. C. Birchard & Co. Music score, including dialogue \$1.00. Chorus parts 25c. One copy of either edition must be purchased for each participant. Rent of orchestra parts \$15 per month.

*Old Glory of the Boys of '76* by Anthony J. Schindler. A short patriotic operetta for boys in two acts, exterior scenes. 13 principals, a chorus of village boys, Continental and Hessian soldiers, guards. Tells the story of how Peter, the village dolt, captures a young Hessian soldier, a character who cannot fail to excite merriment, and a British Major. Drills and exercises may be introduced at the option of the director. The music is not difficult, is lively and ranges from C to F. Chorus should have good voices however. Scenery and costumes are simple. Rights of performance can only be secured through the purchase of six copies of this work from the publishers. J. Fischer and Brother, 11 Bible House, New York City, price 60c net.

*Uncle Sam's Visit* by Maude O. Wallace. A musical play for children with singing and dancing. The "old woman who lives in the shoe has so many children she doesn't know what to do," and they belong to all the nations of the world. She receives a message that Uncle Sam and his daughter, Columbia, who are touring the world, are expecting to make a visit to her unique household before returning to the United States. She plans to entertain the guests with a party in which the children will sing their own folk-songs and dance their own folk-dances in their native costumes. This entertainment may be given in-doors or out-of-doors; may be added to or taken from, according to the material, time and number of children available. The entertainment consists in the main of the well-known national songs and tunes of the nations they are supposed to represent. Time of performance, about two hours; may be shortened if desired. No scenery is needed except several tiers of bleachers decorated with red, white and blue. Stage directions are in score. Willis Music Co., price 60c.

*Under the Stars and Stripes* by Carrie B. Adams. Patriotic operetta for schools, clubs, churches, etc. May be given in part or in entirety.

Two acts—three scenes. A kaleidoscopic-like review of stirring songs, readings, impressive scenes, tableaux and drills bearing upon important incidents, facts and epochs in the nation's history. Requires from 30 to 100 performers, comprised of men, women and children. Singable and within the ability and training of the many rather than the advanced skill of the few. Music not difficult. Detailed directions are given for costumes, staging, general organization, drills, etc. Has educational value. Willis Music Co.; Orchestra parts may be rented. Price \$1.00.

Listed below are a number of hymns, anthems, etc. appropriate for the above celebration, and obtainable from the H. W. Gray Company, 159 East 48th Street, New York City. Publications of a similar type may be secured from publishers such as G. Schirmer, Incorporated, 3 East 43rd Street, New York City, Oliver Ditson Company, 178 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., Lyon and Healy, Wabash Avenue and Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, Sherman Clay Company, Kearney and Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif. Catalogs can be secured from these publishers upon request.

#### FOR MIXED VOICES

*Forward! Be Our Watchword* by T. Tertius Noble. Written for and dedicated to the American Legion. Price 5c

*Song of the World Adventurers* from the music for the Masque of St. Louis, arranged for chorus of mixed voices or High School chorus, by Mackaye and Converse. Price 10c

*God Save America* by W. Franke Harling. National Hymn for chorus of mixed voices. Price 10c

*Land of Freedom* by Ferrari. Price 12c

*God of Our Fathers* by E. W. Wyatt. A hymn of the American Nation arranged for four-part chorus or unison chorus. Price 15c

*O Beautiful, My Country* by Mark Andrews. Anthem for mixed voices, bass solo. Price 20c

*A Prayer of Thanksgiving* founded on the tune "Netherlands" arranged by E. Tertius Noble for chorus and baritone solo. Price 10c. Unison chorus, price 5c

*Freedom, Our Queen* by John Knowles Paine. Arranged for four-part chorus or quartet. Price 12c

*Let God Arise.* Thanksgiving anthem by Thomas W. Surette. This anthem closes with the Star-Spangled Banner. Price 20c

*A Song of Victory* by Percy E. Fletcher. Patriotic chorus of 21 pages. Price 50c

*The American Flag* by Carl Busch. A patriotic cantata for solo voice (tenor), chorus and orchestra. Difficult but excellent for trained church choir.

#### FOR WOMEN'S VOICES

*God Save America* by W. Franke Harling. Trio for two sopranos and alto. Price 10c

#### FOR MEN'S VOICES

*God Save America* by W. Franke Harling. National hymn for male chorus. Price 12c

*God of Our Fathers* by E. W. Wyatt. Price 15c

#### ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHERS

American Book Co., 100 Washington Square, East, New York City

D. Appleton & Co., 35 West 32nd Street, New York City

Walter Baker & Co., 41 Winter Street, Boston, Mass.

C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Avenue, Boston Mass.

Milton Bradley, 120 East 16th Street, New York City

Dodd, Mead & Co., 4th Avenue and 30th Street, New York City

Geo. H. Doran Co., 244 Madison Avenue, New York City

Eldridge Entertainment House, Franklin, Ohio

J. Fischer and Brother, 11 Bible House, New York City

Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City

Henry Holt & Co., 19 West 44th St., New York City.

Houghton, Mifflin Co., 4 Park Street, Boston, Mass.

National Education Association, Washington, D. C.

Palmer & Company, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

Chas. Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Silver, Burdett Co., 41 Union Square, New York City

Stage Guild, 707 Railway Exchange Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Edgar S. Werner, 11 East 14th Street, New York City

## Summer Courses at New York University of Interest to Recreation Workers

The summer course to be given by the Department of Education of New York University under the direction of Professor Clark W. Hetherington is arranged to meet the needs of three groups of professional workers. The first group includes the teachers and play leaders in service who want help in meeting the growing demand for a natural activity program. Again, courses are offered to enable teachers in service who are graduates of two and three year training courses and others to fulfill the requirements in physical education for a college degree. Special attention is given directors and teachers in teacher training institutes who are in charge of courses for professional education, in physical education, health and recreation and who desire a scientific analysis of the principles and problems involved in the organization and administration of such courses.

Among the courses offered are folk dances and other simple dances, advanced folk and national dances, swimming for beginners and for more experienced, gymnastic dancing for boys and men, leadership and training of leaders of women and girls, activities and methods for recreation leaders, nature and function of play, physical efficiency and achievement tests and similar subjects.

Further information may be secured by addressing Professor C. W. Hetherington, New York University, Washington Square, New York.

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## Camping Problems\*

At the conference on Camping Problems presided over by L. H. Weir of the P. R. A. A., many phases of the movement were discussed relating to charges, length of stay, program and other features, and the experiences of a number of cities were quoted.

The Recreation Commission of Highland Park, Michigan, charges \$7.00 a week for children and \$15.00 for adults. For the housing of the boys, tents are used. The girls live in cottages. The camp is open to all residents of Highland Park,

regardless of their financial position. Parents may visit their children and are entertained at the girls' camp.

Detroit appropriates \$10,000 annually for the camp that is conducted at a cost of about \$14,000. The charge is \$6.00 per week. There is an electric plant at the camp and electricity is used for light and power. A modern plumbing system has been installed. Every child who goes is required to take a physical examination and there is a doctor in charge who receives a weekly salary. Any child is received who wishes to come, whether he is a resident of the city or not. The average stay is from three to four weeks and the average attendance for the season between 1400 and 1500. Of the thirteen employees six are directors and the services of these paid employees are supplemented by counsellors.

Chicago has a unique camp in Camp Roosevelt maintained under the supervision of the Board of Education, special attention being given boys who are behind in their studies. The teachers, who attend in large numbers, throw off their academic dignity and as a result the boys gain a new attitude toward the school. The camp is growing in power and almost a thousand boys are in attendance during the summer season.

There was some discussion by those present as to the merits of the military plan in camp, the question being raised as to the point at which the principle of authority should end and that of democracy begin. A number expressed themselves as favoring camp self-government under leadership. At Camp Roosevelt, it was stated, the freedom of the camp is not at all impaired by the military control in force.

The camp maintained by the Salvation Army at Butler, New Jersey, has been so enlarged that in addition to the relief and charity cases, young people of the Sunday School are now included. The charge of \$6.00 per week for children and \$10.00 a week for adults does not cover the cost.

Much enthusiasm was expressed by the delegates over the camps for farm women maintained in a number of states by the Extension Department of the State University in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture.

"In South Carolina," said Miss Harriet Layton, State Home Demonstration Agent, "the camps are almost all self-supporting. This is due in some degree to the fact that the country people bring food. One farmer has given a site of twenty-three acres near Brevard."

\*Report of Section Meeting on Camping at Twelfth Recreation Congress, Asheville, N. C., October 5-10, 1925.

There was a general discussion with differing opinions expressed regarding the policy of joint or separate camps for boys and girls.

## Municipal Golf\*

"Any community of 50,000 or over can start a nine hole golf course and every community of 100,000 or over can start an eighteen hole golf course."

Opening the discussion of construction and maintenance of golf courses with this statement, W. C. Batchelor, Superintendent of Recreation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated the following principles, which in his estimation enter into a consideration of municipal golf.

The collection of a small fee, possibly 25 cents for nine holes should create sufficient revenue to pay all expenses of maintenance and operation, with a balance adequate to pay principal and interest on notes for construction (fifteen year bonds were suggested).

In the South, where golf is a twelve-month game, if the course is properly managed, it may also be made to pay the cost of purchase of from twenty-five to one hundred acres of ground. Construction costs, however, will vary with soil conditions and geographical locations from \$200 to \$1000 a hole.

In constructing a new course and establishing a system of management, Mr. Batchelor suggested the following principles that in his opinion make for success.

(1) It is better to lease all concessions such as lunch room and refreshments, instruction service, sale and repair of equipment.

(2) It is not wise to restrict a professional in the matter of rates for lessons. If these are placed too low by the management, the professional will neglect instructions in favor of club repair; if they are placed too high by the professional, it injures his own trade.

(3) It is advisable to build a moderate clubhouse with not too many lockers and with few of these for women. There should be a check room with a small fee for service. The caretaker's quarters may well be in the building and be made a source of revenue.

(4) The revenue should come from fees for

the playing privileges and not from membership dues. (Mr. Batchelor suggested in this connection that there be a private club on the course at \$2.00 membership with no playing privileges, simply for the promotion of the game and for cooperation with the management.)

(5) The manager should be employed on a salary basis alone, his salary to be at the rate of \$200 to \$250 a month, the management of the course to be his sole responsibility. All employees and concessionaries should be responsible to him.

(6) Unless plenty of money is available, it is not advisable to pipe the course for water as part of the original construction. This necessitates sand greens, and the cost of piping will approximate from \$100 to \$500 a hole, an expense that is not included in the previous estimates of construction costs.

(7) It is well to use cash register stub for game tickets, check room and locker rentals, eliminating all printel forms. This system has the advantage of accuracy and economy of bookkeeping.

## Stadiums and Playground Buildings\*

V. K. Brown, Superintendent of Playgrounds and Sports, South Park Commission, Chicago, pointed out some of the features that should be given consideration by recreation leaders planning such structures.

### *Expansion of Structure*

The growth of the city is an important factor in determining the size of the stadium; it should be so constructed as to allow for expansion.

### *Adaptability*

This is important from the standpoint of use; facilities such as dressing rooms, toilet facilities and assembly places should be given careful consideration. Where large groups are to be used in pageants, assembly places for them should be provided under the structure. The stadium at Berkeley, California, has been economically arranged because part of it is built on the hillside and part is built up, the second half providing space for dressing rooms and similar facilities.

\*Discussion at Section Meeting of the Recreation Congress held at Asheville, North Carolina, October 5-10, 1925.

\*Report of discussion at Section Meeting of Recreation Congress held at Asheville, North Carolina, October 5-10, 1925.



*Entrances and Exits*

The flow of performers to and from the field is an important consideration. There must be large entrances to the field so that large groups may go on quickly for pageants and community celebrations. Similarly, large exits must be provided.

*Acoustics*

This is exceedingly important. Acoustics are usually better in a natural amphitheater than in a built-up structure. The projection of radios has usually proved the best method of providing satisfactory acoustics. It is rather expensive, but as a rule is necessary.

*Other Considerations*

Motor parking facilities are a problem in connection with many stadiums. It is important to adjust the numbering of seats and the seating arrangements. If an accurate count is desired, turnstiles must be used.

Another consideration is the width of the seats and their numbering. Where the seats are to be reserved, suitable accommodations must be provided; eighteen and one-fourth inches has proved a satisfactory width. Some stadiums use the plan of burning in the seat number; in others metal numbers are placed on them. Where seats are not reserved, it is possible to seat many more people.

Throughout his discussion Mr. Brown made the point that stadiums involve highly technical engineering problems and because a stadium is such a complicated structure, recreation workers should be responsible only for outlining the operating needs and uses, leaving the technical problems to the engineers.

Chicago has spent \$3,000,000 on its stadium and recently voted \$3,000,000 in addition to complete it. This proves that the city has accepted the structure as an important part of its life. The Chicago Municipal Stadium has not as yet standardized charges, but it generally requires 10 per cent. of the gate collections plus any cost in addition to the regular maintenance which is cared for by the Park Department. Such extra costs are involved where temporary structures are set up, where the turf must be removed and similar matters attended to, but ordinary policing and supervising are done by the Park Department without extra charge.

The P. R. A. A. has collected information regarding stadiums now in use. This will be published in an early number of *THE PLAYGROUND*.

*Playground Buildings*

Discussion of playground buildings disclosed the fact that the Minneapolis Park Department has recently erected a number of buildings at a cost of from \$12,000 to \$25,000. The department has found that creosote blocks for floors where skating is carried on wear well and that paraffin or corn meal is excellent for floors used for dancing.

The Evanston Department of Recreation is planning buildings for four of its playgrounds, the small ones to cost \$4,500 each, the larger \$8,000. The larger buildings will follow the same plan as the smaller, with the exception of having wings at one end providing porches separated by brick columns. In the winter a wooden sash will be set up between the columns and the building will be heated by the Arcola system.

Sacramento has a number of inexpensive buildings which permit of use at one time by several groups.

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## Rapid Development

Two years ago Sarasota, Florida, had a population of 2500; today it numbers approximately 10,000 people and with prospects for increasing this number materially in the future.

Sarasota has joined the ranks of cities conducting year-round recreation. On November 2, 1925, following a campaign conducted with the help of the P. R. A. A., the City Council passed an ordinance creating a public recreation board and adopted a budget for operating expense of \$6,000, employing a Superintendent of Recreation, David B. Wright, to take charge of the work.

That the city is planning ahead is evidenced by the fact that a few months ago the municipal government secured through a bond issue of \$50,000 about 160 acres of land two miles east of the city and is constructing an eighteen-hole golf course. A second bond issue of \$75,000 purchased a nine-acre tract in the northeastern section of the city known as Gillespie Park. This the city is developing as a recreation center. Forty acres of the former fair grounds known as Payne Park have been turned over to the city. Here are unusually fine recreation facilities, especially for major sports. The site of the new high school will occupy twenty acres.

## How Can a Community Measure its Recreation Progress\*

"Although it is impossible to measure the spiritual values arising from a well administered recreation program," said Frank E. Sutch, Superintendent of Recreation, Scranton, Pennsylvania, in opening the discussion, "It is possible to a degree to estimate such values by the extent to which they are reflected in a larger appreciation of the public recreation program and its consequent physical growth and development."

Mr. Sutch outlined a number of factors which he believes can be used to measure physical progress if a report is kept over a period of years and physical development is checked up on a permanent chart periodically. Some of the items which lend themselves to checking in this way are as follows:

1. *Administration*
  - A. Efficiency
  - B. Activity
  - C. Frequency of Meetings
    - Non-political character
2. *Leadership*
  - A. Full time
    - Salary scale
    - Training
  - B. Volunteer
3. *Physical Equipment—Plant*
  - A. Area
  - B. Permanence
  - C. Value
  - D. Apparatus
  - E. Gymnasias
    - Size
    - Ventilation
    - Equipment
    - Location
  - F. Pools
  - G. School Centers
  - H. Church Centers
  - I. Tennis Courts
  - J. Ball Diamonds
  - K. Golf Links
  - L. Beautification
  - M. Development
4. *Finances*
  - A. Source
  - B. Amounts—Increases
  - C. Self-supporting activities

### 5. *Activities*

- (I) Breadth and intensive use
  - A. Athletic
  - B. Literary
  - C. Music
  - D. Dramatic
  - E. Holiday celebrations
  - F. Social
  - G. Art work
  - H. Definite program planning
- (II) Participation
  - A. Number of participants
  - B. Percentage of whole groups
  - C. Percentage in active recreation
  - D. Participation in passive recreation
  - E. Hours of participation
  - F. Ages of participants
  - G. Seasons
  - H. Home play activity
  - I. Group activity
  - J. Individual activity
  - K. Clubs
  - L. Activity of different sections of the city

Other methods of judging the values of the recreation program are to study its effect (taking into consideration other factors), on juvenile delinquency, health, personal efficiency, accidents, citizenship building, cultural growth and similar values.

Mr. Sutch referred to the Wisconsin Better Cities contest with its score sheet on recreation as having value for recreation executives in working out similar sheets for checking up progress.

In the discussion following Mr. Sutch's paper, the importance of home recreation was stressed. It was urged that the playground teach activities that can be taken back into the home and that everything possible be done to stimulate home recreation.

## Mayor Martin Behrman

Mayor Behrman's enthusiasm for recreation and his leadership in recreation matters in New Orleans have been known to many throughout America. His more recent plans for park recreation development for New Orleans have challenged attention wherever they have been known. He was interested not only in recreation for New Orleans but in recreation for the entire country. He served as a Patron of the National Association. He helped in raising money for the national movement. His death is a loss to the movement throughout the country.

\*Report of Section Meeting of the Recreation Congress held at Asheville, North Carolina, October 5-10, 1925.

# Training Recreation Workers Within a System\*

The ever-important question of training and keeping up to date the workers employed in a recreation system popped up its head frequently at the last Recreation Congress. At one section meeting devoted entirely to this subject, W. C. Bechtold, of Evanston, Illinois, told of the plan carried out in his community. The problem of training summer workers is particularly difficult, as workers came from other regular occupations, sometimes from other cities and are not available for classes through the winter. To meet this condition a short intensive training is given for two or three days before the opening of the twelve-week summer playground season. Mr. Bechtold tried to secure specialists in various activities as well as in general playground work and asked each of these specialists to give special training to other workers, as in handcraft, fencing, archery. A staff conference was held for two hours every Monday morning and at the end each member was asked to write suggestions. Besides these conferences a very complete bulletin service was provided. Each leader keeps a complete file in a binder and must send in a signed report indicating that he has analyzed and understands the bulletin.

A long-session institute is held from November to May with two three-hour sessions each month. It is open to churches, civic organizations and others without charge. One hundred ten were in the course and from this number forty-two were secured for playground employment. Much help in conducting this institute was given by Northwestern University, both in theoretical and practical courses.

Earle A. Pritchard, of Reading, Pennsylvania, spoke on *Institute Methods*. Because the amount of material to be given is greater than the time available, Mr. Pritchard divides the subject matter into two groups A and B. A is the routine, necessary annual material. B takes three years. New workers only take A. Six methods are used: *Mass Participation* under tried leadership; *Student Leadership*; *Discussion* of assigned study of mimeographed material in round table fashion; *Demonstration* of actual program with children followed by class clinic; *Assigned Problems* of

visitation; *Lectures*—inspirational material, given only occasionally.

The students are divided into four main sections, men and women in the same proportion in each group, with a permanent leader. Before each session of the institute a one-hour leaders' group meeting is held. To this meeting the regular leader brings a protégé, a different one each day. To these two student leaders is given the material to be handled by the "leadership" and "discussion" methods and part of that presented under "demonstration" method. They are held responsible for putting this material "across" to their respective groups, all meeting simultaneously.

The standard of work in the institute was kept high by a rating system and a financial stipend that varied in the last institute from ninety cents to nineteen dollars and twenty-five cents, the maximum possibility being twenty dollars. Appointments upon the playgrounds depended somewhat upon this rating.

In connection with the institute Mr. Pritchard developed what he found to be a valuable device, which he called the "Tie-up." About two weeks before the institute opened a survey blank was sent to natural leaders among the children of the city, selected by the school people.

During the second week of the institute period, after workers' locations had been assigned, the staff of playground workers for each center took an entire forenoon for the purpose of attending school assemblies in their respective districts, to discuss survey findings, explain playground attractions and tell of the opening day's program. Afterward they met with the leaders who had filled in survey cards, thanked them, told them of new intra-playground plans which involved the opportunities for the expression of their leadership and the distinct participation of their own groups, and at the end personally invited each of these leaders to the City Park playground the following Thursday evening to what was termed "a directors' jamboree."

At this jamboree it was planned to have these child leaders, representing each center, organized to cheer and encourage their director and his assistants in their efforts to win in the great variety of competitions which took place among the play

\*Report of section meeting held at Asheville Recreation Congress.

directors of the staff upon this specially arranged program for the display of their individual prowess.

It may be imagined that each and every boy or girl leader present on that occasion was also on hand at the playground the following Monday, and in most cases with at least part of his or her "bunch."

In the discussion following the addresses, the question was raised whether social games and other physical activities should come early in the evening or follow the theory lectures. Mr. Bechtold said Professor Richards, the instructor in psychology, believed the class was more receptive after games. Ernst Herrmann said he, too, believed the games should come first.

A very interesting discussion arose, largely between Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Herrmann, regarding the principles and value of pupil leadership. (Our readers will remember Mr. Herrmann's very suggestive article on this subject.) Time did not permit of a satisfactory threshing out of the points. Interested auditors are looking forward to a continuation of the discussion at the next Congress.

## New York State Parks

The remarkable development of State Parks of New York is described in the Annual Report of the State Council of Parks, created in 1924 to coordinate the various scattered state park agencies, as an essential part of the unified state park program initiated in 1923.

"A state park plan," says the report, "must take into consideration the topography of the state, the location of population centers, the anticipated growth in population, the anticipated need of recreational and conservation facilities in the light of the growth in population, particularly urban population and of the ever increasing demand for outdoor recreation. The plan must be made with the automobile in view and with air travel on the not distant horizon. It must take into consideration the location of forest, lake and water areas, acres of farming, industry, trade and commerce, railroad and traffic arteries. Careful consideration must also be given to the disappearance of shore front and other desirable recreation areas into private hands and the need of securing sufficient areas of this kind at reasonable prices before they are developed, built upon and otherwise removed from the possibility of acquisition.

The headquarters of the State Council of Parks

are at 302 Broadway, New York City. Henry F. Lutz is Executive Secretary.

## Growth at Alameda, California

Alameda's gain in operating budget since 1917 reflects the steady growth which has been going on in the recreation program of that city. The budget figures are as follows:

1917	.....\$17,805.00
1918	..... 19,555.00
1919	..... 23,505.00
1920	..... 26,045.00
1921	..... 31,054.00
1922	..... 40,232.00
1923	..... 63,226.57
1924	..... 38,600.00
1925	..... 44,423.00 plus \$70,000 Golf

The broadening of the dramatic section is proving one of the most promising developments. A Children's Dramatic Club has been organized in each playground, while at Lincoln Park has been built the Fairy Glen Theater, an outdoor stage for the production of playlets by club members. The settings, costumes and scenery are the work of the children under the supervision of a special director.

Other special features of the program have included twelve playdays for boys and girls, with over 250 children in attendance at each. The programs were varied, consisting of games of competition and skill as well as athletic events.

Christmas, Easter and Hallowe'en provided many days of fun: Christmas, in the preparation of a gorgeously decorated and lighted tree, with many yards of pop-corn and colored paper ornaments made by the children: Easter brought hundreds of colored eggs with appropriate games and contests to each playground: Hallowe'en turned Lincoln Park into a veritable haven for ghosts, goblins, witches and black cats, when fifteen hundred costumed children paraded through the park. The celebration culminated in an apple ducking and doughnut eating contest, with other seasonable and competitive games.

Reviving an old custom, Kite Day, once an annual event, was again enthusiastically welcomed by hundreds of small boys at McKinley Park. Kites of every size and description were entered and flown, ranging from a six foot tailless down to one cleverly constructed of tooth-picks.



# Nature's Invitation

DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM E. VINAL

## Our Greatest Playground

HENRY R. FRANCIS

Everyone who has become interested in the recreation movement doubtless has questioned what, after all, constitutes our greatest playground. This is not a question which is easily answered, and anyone who has pondered upon it must be somewhat confused. After following the national trend in out-door recreation for many years I am going to take a sporting chance and venture my opinion in this hazardous field. I am convinced that if we apply this question to public provisions of those areas which are recognized as being available to a very large public rather than to the residents of a small unit of territory we shall come to a feeling that our greatest playground, at least in extent of area, is found in our National and in our State Parks and Forests. In the aggregate these public playgrounds total nearly 200,000,000 acres in extent. Not only do we already possess this magnificent playground area but it is constantly and steadily increasing in size. One of the most recent events that will add to the acreage of State Parks is the \$15,000,000 State Park bond issue act in New York State which has now become a law and provides for a comprehensive and unified State park system in the Empire State.

Not alone may this vast public area be considered great because of its extent of land space, but also on the basis of numbers of persons served must consideration be given to its magnitude. Let us take for example the National Forests. Something like 14,000,000 of people went into them last season to obtain recreation. Then, to single out a State Park, we may point to the Interstate Palisades Park where it is estimated that more than 5,000,000 visitors found a place to play. In fact, the attendance at this public playground of about 40,000 acres is so large that no longer is attempt made to count the individuals who use the public facilities there for outdoor recreation.

But the real test of greatness must be made by the character of service rendered the public by these huge and popular playgrounds. With little hesitation we may state that the great value of these playgrounds lies in the opportunity af-

forded the public to obtain something that playgrounds within a city cannot provide. This is a chance to secure impressions which are the very opposite from the city with its pressure of artificiality. The relief furnished the public from city sounds, atmosphere, sights and influences by these natural playgrounds is a very necessary outlet to our rapid speed of urban life. In these natural playgrounds we find the handiwork of nature predominating as contrasted to the work of man which abounds in our urban surroundings and as our ratio of urban population increases as compared with the rural, the need for these natural playgrounds becomes keener.

There is a very grave danger that this superb national possession, greater than that found in any other country, may be diminished in value by the tendency to introduce "unnatural" elements, flavoring of cities, as a part of the so-called development of them. When any portion of these natural playgrounds becomes so changed in character that artificiality prevails the seeker after the type of recreation which natural playgrounds offer will have to go into the hinterland of these parks and forests.

This tendency to provide city comforts and conveniences to the urbanite out in the wilds appeals to the crowd so long as the individuals in that crowd give a little heed to benefits that might be derived from this kind of outdoor recreation if the recreationists were induced to develop resourcefulness and individuality. I do not mean by this that a recreationist in these natural playgrounds must be physically or mentally uncomfortable in order to have an enjoyable outing. What I do contend is that our developments are very liable to destroy the primitive character of these inspiring playgrounds so that their great contribution is either lessened or lost. We need the guidance of an artist in arranging these areas so far as the absolutely necessary facilities are concerned. When this happy condition of affairs arrives we shall have the greatness of these natural playgrounds interpreted for us.

In addition to the services of the artists in designing the developments we need further the skill of nature guides who can direct the activities in the wide uses of these natural playgrounds. As these resources for recreation become better ap-

preciated we may expect that America will realize its opportunities and truly utilize them so that these possessions will indeed be our greatest playground.

Professor Vinal will be very glad to have word of proposed nature activities from readers of his page. He will also answer any questions sent in.

## Westchester County Plans Its Second Music Festival

Last year the people of Westchester County, under the auspices of the Westchester County Recreation Commission, held their first music festival. During the three days of the festival 15,000 people attended and listened to a chorus of 2,000 voices in addition to some of the world's greatest artists and the New York Symphony Orchestra.

To make this festival permanent, the Westchester Choral Society has been organized and plans are under way for the second festival, to be held May 20th, 21st and 22d, 1926. Uniting in it will be various choral organizations now rehearsing in many parts of the county under the leadership of Morris Gabriel Williams, County Choral Director. Among the groups participating will be several colored chorals and a number of foreign born groups, some of which will appear in native costume. These groups will come together for a final rehearsal, but it is through the individual group rehearsals that the preparation is being made.

Two hundred leaders in communities throughout the county are being asked to become patrons, paying membership dues of \$100.00, which will include box holding privileges for the three evenings of the festival. Several classes of membership have been created in order that everyone may have the opportunity of joining. These classes are: sustaining, contributing, associate and active.

It is significant that so tremendous and impressive an event as the Westchester County Festival should be the outgrowth of the work of a Recreation Commission, and organized and fostered by it. Its success bears important testimony to the vision which recreation workers are giving their communities of the scope of the leisure time program and the importance of those cultural and art activities "so rich in heightened moments and offering channels through which creative energy may flow."

## The Question Box

Q. What can the recreation executives and those working with them do to lessen the influence of the so-called gutter literature appearing on the newsstands today?

A. Recreation leaders throughout the country are learning more and more to accent things to think and dream about, things that can be dramatized, that can be looked forward to. An interest in nature study works for more wholesome attitudes and results in beautiful images being recorded on the mind, leaving less room for the ugly and the vulgar.

All of the athletic activities, music, drama, nature study, normal social recreation, tend to give things to talk about so that sex may have its more normal place in human life.

If the recreation systems of the country could help make the positive programs of recreations in the home, the church, and all the existing institutions so attractive that there will be less desire and less place for unwholesome things, gradually the standard of taste and of interest will be created. Of course all this is a slow educational process.

Q. What are some of the events that can be used in a Kite Tournament?

A. In Jacksonville's last contest the following events were used:

(1) Quarter Mile Dash. For this event the strings are previously measured and kept in the office until time for use. The object of the contest is to play out all the string and wind it in in the shortest possible time. No limit is set on the size of the kite or winder. The ordinary small hand winder is usually the best and it is easier to control the smaller kites. A judge or playground leader stands behind each competitor.

(2) Novelty event. These events, which may include any flying novelty in the air, are judged on their flying effects. Novelty kites may include many varieties. Embroidery hoops with cone shaped bags make effective tails. The kites used in this contest should not be sent up high.

(3) Tug-of-war. This event takes more time than any of the others. When the kites, which have the same length strings, are in the air, the strings are broken and the kites an equal distance in the air are tied to a pulley on top of a post. (About twelve pulleys are in action at one time, involving twenty-four kites.) Pulled by the wind, the kites begin to see-saw. The kite that flies highest wins. For this event kites should not be more than four ft. in height.



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(4) Distance Contest. Ten minutes are allowed the contestant in which to get the kites out. The one farthest out at the end of this period wins. To determine the winner, it is helpful to use as a judge a civil engineer who is not too technical. The judges, of whom there are usually five, go out in automobiles to measure distance by eye. The kites used should be of medium size.

## Eleanor Margaret Toll

A FRIEND OF RECREATION IN GLENDALE

The recreation movement has lost a friend in the death of Mrs. Charles H. Toll, past President of the Los Angeles District Federation of Women's Clubs, whose ability as an organizer and executive has been responsible for the progress of a number of important civic movements.

Mrs. Toll was deeply interested in the local recreation movement and served as Chairman of the Community Arts Committee of Glendale Community Service. Not long before her death she organized the Glendale Symphony Orchestra Association to foster the symphony orchestra.

For two years Mrs. Toll sponsored the appeals sent out for the national work by the P. R. A. A.

## Our Folks

August Fischer, formerly Superintendent of Recreation in Middlesboro, Kentucky, has recently been employed as Superintendent of Recreation in the new municipal recreation system of Winter Haven, Florida.

Philip LeBoutillier, formerly Director of Park Activities in Nashville, Tennessee, has recently gone to Daytona Beach, Florida, as Superintendent of Recreation in the new municipal recreation system.

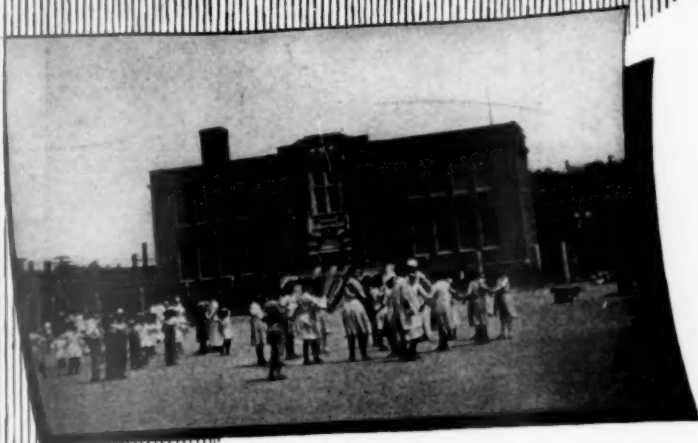
Miss Sophie T. Fishback will succeed Miss Mary B. Freeland as Superintendent of Recreation in Stamford, Connecticut, beginning May first.

Miss Beulah Crofoot, of the Community Players in Buffalo, has recently accepted a position with the New York Tuberculosis Association in charge of music work in hospitals.

Leland Lawrence, who has been in charge of one of the community centers in the Milwaukee system, has recently been employed as Superintendent of Recreation in River Forest, Illinois.

Melville Hodge, Director of Athletics on the Evanston, Illinois, staff, has been appointed as Superintendent of Recreation in Rock Island, Ill.





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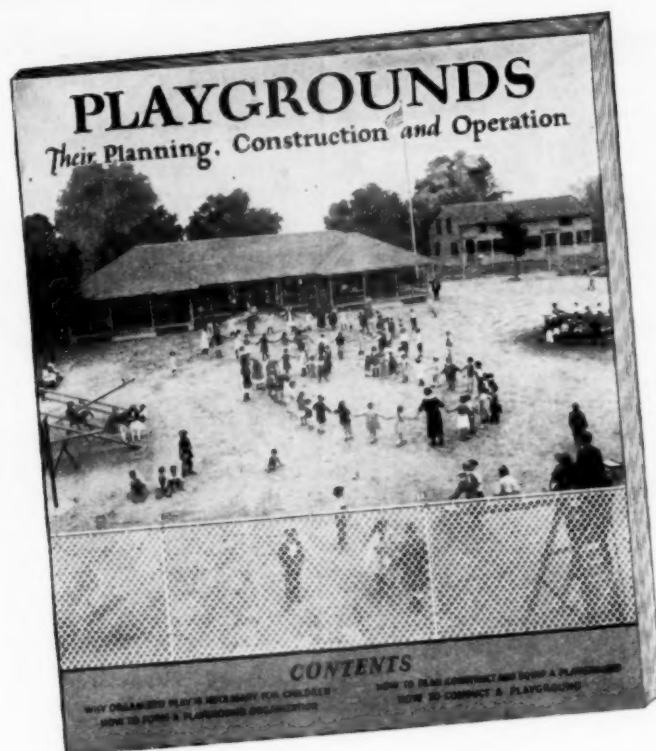
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## Book Reviews

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.** By Jesse Frederick Steiner. Published by The Century Company, New York and London. Price, \$2.25

In this volume Dr. Steiner presents an analysis of past experiments in community organization, the contribution of various movements to it, and the principles which have emerged from the different experiments. The book is a broad study of various types of organization based upon a sociological analysis of the community. It will later be supplemented with a study of the technic of community organization.

The volume is divided into three main sections: (1) The Community Movement and Social Progress, (2) Typical Experiments in Community Organization, (3) Theory and Principles of Community Organization. Of special interest to community workers in the recreation field is the chapter on the playground and recreation movement and its contribution to the field.

**HEALTH AND PHYSIQUE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.** By James Frederick Rogers, M.D. (Advance sheets from Biennial Survey of Education in the United States, 1922-1924) Bulletin, 1925, No. 21, Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

In this report Dr. Rogers presents the results of a study of health conditions among school children. Playgrounds are discussed as a health producing agency and Dr. Rogers reports that out of 164 cities sending in information on the subject 143 stated that playgrounds are provided for every new school building. "Doubtless," suggests Dr. Rogers, "in many instances there is much to be desired in the size of these grounds, but in at least one State a minimum standard has been set of 2 acres for every one-teacher school, 3 acres for every two-teacher school, 4 acres for every three-teacher school, and 5 acres for every larger elementary school. Ten acres has been set as the minimum for high schools."

Under the subject, *Physical Training*, the following statement appears:

"While the content of the course in physical training is broadening, its extent, so far as the school period is concerned, is still small. As a purely instructional exercise perhaps 15 or 20 minutes a day is adequate, but from a "study period" point of view, or rather from a joy-of-living, developmental, and recreative aspect, two hours a day is not too much.

"The development of playgrounds and swimming pools, with supervision through municipal or school authorities, has added much to the opportunity for physical and therefore mental and moral health of the school child."

Other subjects discussed in relation to school health are school housing, medical inspection, dental work, nutrition, open-air schools, the summer camp, health education, safety and first aid, legislation, and similar topics.

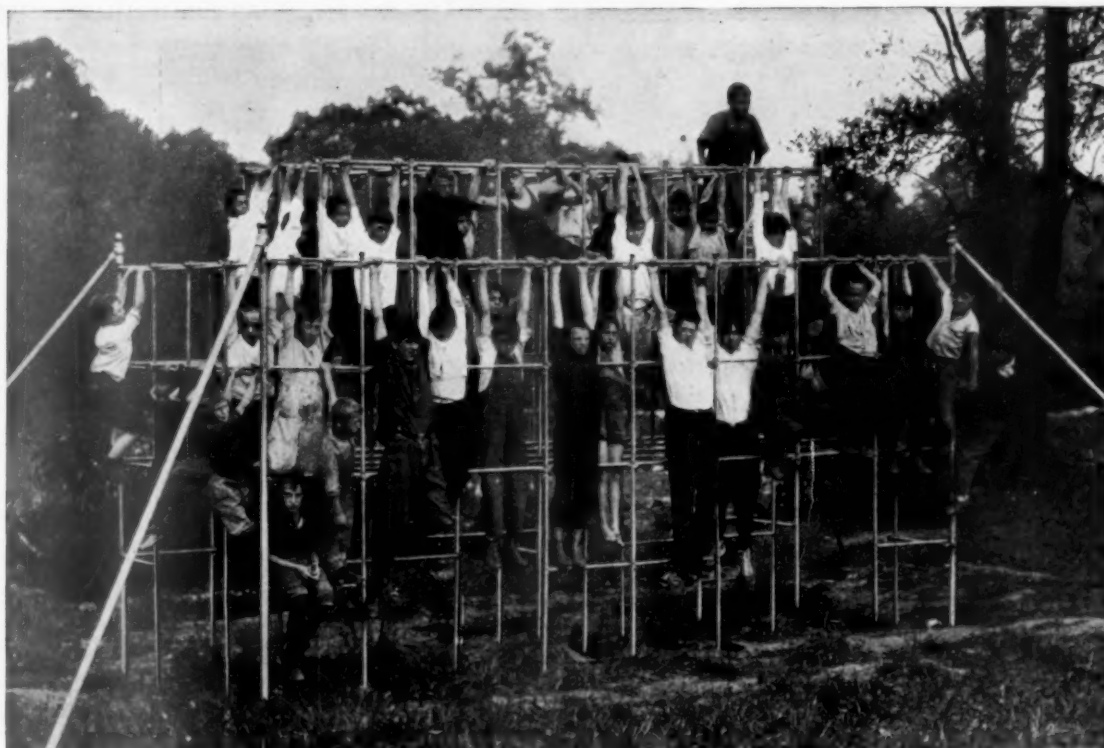
**PROGRESS IN KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION.** By Nina C. Vandewalker. (Advance sheets from the Biennial Survey of Education in the United States, 1922-1924) Bulletin, 1925, No. 18, Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

This report not only contains information on kindergarten education with data on courses, training of teachers, progress in legislation and new literature available, but tells of the growth of the nursery school movement.

**UNDERSTANDING OUR CHILDREN.** By Frederick Pierce. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Price, \$2.00

The method of approach to an effective handling of children which Mr. Pierce has used is expressed by him as follows: "The method of approach that I have used in this book is, in the last analysis, one of simple, expository appeal to common sense, with a definite avoidance of technical considerations and scientific terminology. It is not pretended that this work presents all that parents should know, but a working knowledge of the principles given cannot help resulting in more adequate understanding and friendly co-operation between parents and children."





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The chapter headings under which the subject is discussed are as follows:

Facing Parenthood  
The Nature of Children  
The Early Childhood  
Pre-Adolescence  
Adolescence and the Early Mating Period  
Methods of Mind Management

### SURVEYING YOUR COMMUNITY

(A Handbook of Method for the Rural Church, by Edmund deS. Brunner. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York City, for the Institute of Social and Religious Research)

Surveying Your Community, a handbook of method for the rural church, a practical guide for leaders of rural districts and small communities, in promoting and conducting the effective study of their local and social problems.

This handbook outlines in logical order, and in detail, the necessary steps for promoting a survey, conducting it, and in presenting and utilizing the results in the manner most effective for the stimulation of the community to definite action.

This is a good practical guide and should be of value to any small community wishing to make a community study, especially a study designed to strengthen the programs of the local religious organizations.

PROGRAM SERVICE FOR MEETINGS, Rural Organization Circulator No. 13, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts

In this pamphlet are to be found a number of typical programs for meetings of neighborhood or community organizations in rural districts, suggestions for programs of monthly meetings and a list of material available through the extension service, including debates, mock trials, home talent plays, readings and recitals, pageants, pantomimes and picnic programs.

"An outline quite generally followed in meetings" includes the following:

1. Music or moving pictures
2. Two community songs
3. Business session
4. Musical selection
5. Five to ten minute talk—farm topic of general interest
6. Five to ten minute talk—home topic of general interest
7. Discussion
8. Reading or recitation
9. Stunts, games, contests, play or debate
10. Songs
11. Adjournment
12. Social hour and light refreshments

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1925. Published by the Government Printing Office

In addition to the report on the many activities of the Bureau along child welfare lines, the following statement is made regarding the study of commercial recreation being carried on by the Bureau:

"The dance-hall ordinances of towns and cities of 15,000 population or over are being assembled and summarized, and a field of study of the methods of ordinance enforcement and administration, and of the provision made by the community for the recreational needs of the adolescent boy and girl is being made in fifteen cities and towns. The report will deal chiefly with the kind of supervision or control of public amusements which has been found effective, the type of community recreation which has appealed to and held young people, and the various experiments, successful and unsuccessful, which communities have tried in the development of work along these two lines."

Bills providing for regulation and licensing of public dance halls, states the report, were passed by Idaho, Illinois, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, but failed in Kansas, Maine and Pennsylvania.

Among the other activities along recreational lines may

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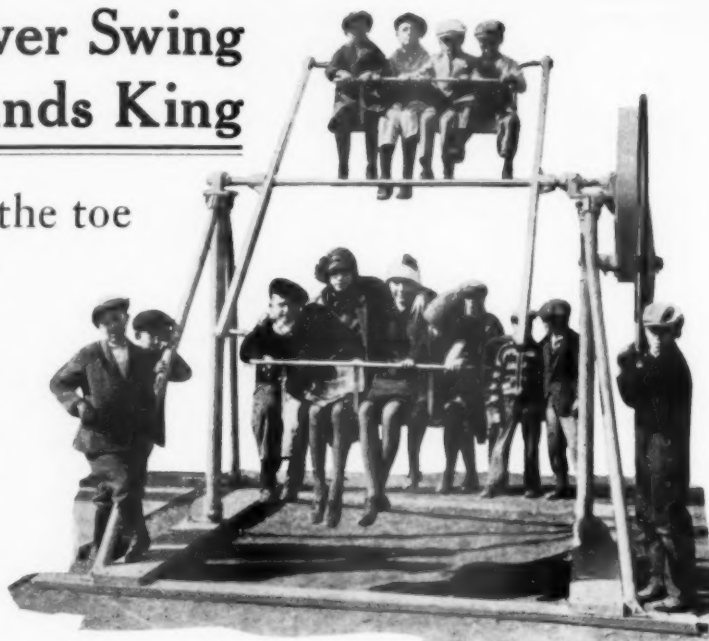
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be listed the compilation of a bulletin on play and recreation for blind children.

**THE APPRECIATION OF MUSIC BY MEANS OF THE "PIANOLA" AND "DUO-ART."** By Percy A. Scholes. Published by Oxford University Press

This volume comprises course of lectures delivered at Aeolian Hall, London, and also a foreword by Sir Alexander Mackenzie and a chapter on how to get the best from the pianola by Reginald Reynolds. The lectures are printed from the stenographic reports in the conversational manner in which they were given and are intended to show that in the two forms of player-piano discussed an unrivalled aid to musical education is at hand. The lectures are on musical appreciation in general and on Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven.

**ONE-ACT PLAYS FOR YOUNG FOLKS** Edited by M. A. Jagendorf. Published by Brentano's, New York. Price, \$2.00

Thirteen little plays, many of which have been produced at the Children's Playhouse at the Mohegan Modern School at Peekskill, New York, are in this volume. Suggestions for boys and girls "who would like to stage these little plays and for their parents and friends who would like to help them are given.

**GROUP LEADERS AND BOY CHARACTER** By A. J. Gregg. Published by Association Press

This book is to take the place of the Pioneer and comrade Leader's Manuals of the Christian Citizenship Program, making available material new in the last five years. Plans and suggestions, with a wealth of illustrations make up a very useful volume.

**SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH RURAL PEOPLE** By Walter A. Terpenning, Professor of Sociology, Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Michigan

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This study undertakes a comprehensive investigation of the work of all the important social organizations working with farmers, in two typical rural counties. A very detailed and thoughtful record of conditions in these two counties is given. The usual discouraging conditions and lack of cooperation are discovered, but in this case the roots of the evil are frankly and specifically pointed out. Dr. Terpenning's solution is in the adoption of the "organic view." He believes that the present failure in rural social organization can be overcome in time by "the improvement of means of communication, by the more thorough training of the leaders in the general principles of social organization, along with the technical training, through the influence of leaders so trained, and the encouragement of the various agencies in a gradually increasing participation in cooperative plans and practices."

**THE ART OF PRODUCING PAGEANTS.** By Esther Willard Bates. Published by Walter H. Baker Company, Boston. Price, \$1.75

A very important addition to the literature on pageant production is this splendid book of Miss Bates with its detailed and practical chapters on the Sites and Settings, The Pageant Text, Dancing, Music, Color and Costume, Lighting, Grouping, Rehearsing, Organization, Financing, Publicity, Decorations and other features. Especially suggestive is the chapter on Lighting which tells of the various kinds of lighting adapted to pageant production and explains simply and directly how lighting equipment may be made.

## At the Conventions

The Eighteenth National Conference of City Planning was held at St. Petersburg, Florida, March 27th to 31st, and at West Palm Beach, April 1st. Among the topics discussed were "Developing City Water Fronts for Recreational Use"; "Legislation Necessary to Secure Protective Measures and to Reduce Automatically Small Parks and Playgrounds"; "Zoning Ordinances and Their Administration and the Planning of Re-zoning Communities."

On February 12th and 13th the Second Massachusetts State Conference of Directors and Instructors in Physical Education was held in Boston. Among the topics discussed were inter-scholastic competition for girls, fundamentals of interpretive dancing, suggestions for school room and school yard activities and mass instruction in the fundamentals of basketball. A number of demonstrations added to the interest of the meetings.

The first meeting of the National Association for the Study of the Platoon or Work-Study-Play school organization held in Washington in February, disclosed a marked increase in the number of cities using the plan and the growing importance of this educational method whereby work, study and play are being interwoven into the curriculum. In 1913 there were four cities in which one or more schools were being conducted on this basis; in January, 1926, there were 100 cities known to be using the plan.



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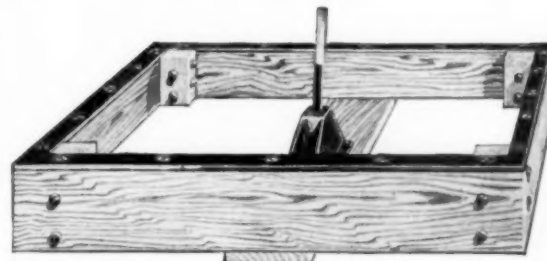
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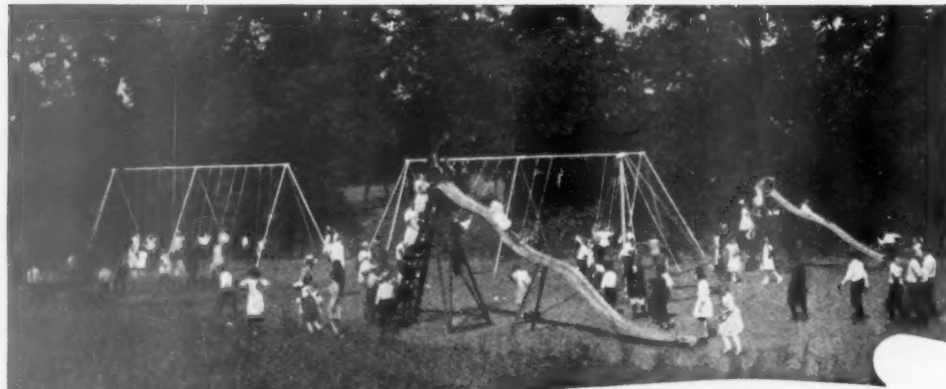
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